



County Borough of Smethwick

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The  
Health of the Borough  
in  
1952

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HUGH PAUL, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,  
Tuberculosis Officer and  
School Medical Officer.

JOHN H. WRIGHT, M.B.E., F.S.I.A

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



*With the Compliments of the  
Medical Officer of Health*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
"THE UPLANDS"  
HALES LANE  
SMETUNIAV

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# County Borough of Smethwick

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## COMMITTEES—1952-1953

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### Health Committee:

*Chairman:* ALDERMAN MRS. E. M. FARLEY, O.B.E., J.P.

*Vice-Chairman:* COUNCILLOR R. L. PRITCHARD.

|                                           |                         |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| THE MAYOR (ALD. MRS. A. E. LENNARD, J.P.) | ALDERMAN W. H. PERRY.   |
| ALDERMAN A. BRADFORD, J.P.                | ALDERMAN E. T. BROWN.   |
| ALDERMAN F. W. PERRY, J.P.                | COUNCILLOR H. HAMILTON, |
| COUNCILLOR W. G. MASON.                   | M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.      |

*Co-opted members for the purpose of Maternity and Child Welfare:*

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| MRS. E. E. JONES.    | MRS. I. M. STAPHNILL. |
| MRS. A. B. STANFORD. | MISS S. C. WRIGHT.    |

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### Mental Health Sub-Committee:

All members of the Health Committee.

MR. J. M. ADAIR.

*Chairman:* ALDERMAN MRS. E. M. FARLEY, O.B.E., J.P.

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### Welfare Sub-Committee:

All members of the Health Committee.

*Chairman:* ALDERMAN MRS. E. M. FARLEY, O.B.E., J.P.

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### The Hollies and Day Nurseries Sub-Committee:

*Chairman:* ALDERMAN MRS. E. M. FARLEY, O.B.E., J.P.

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ALDERMAN A. BRADFORD, J.P. | ALDERMAN E. T. BROWN.       |
| ALDERMAN W. H. PERRY.      | COUNCILLOR R. L. PRITCHARD. |

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### Health and Education Joint Sub-Committee:

*Representing Health Committee:*

ALDERMAN MRS. E. M. FARLEY, O.B.E., J.P.

|                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| ALDERMAN F. W. PERRY, J.P. | ALDERMAN W. H. PERRY. |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|

*Representing Education Committee:*

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. KIMBERLEY. COUNCILLOR D. SHUKER.

MR. H. O. HUGHES, M.A., B.Sc.

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF:

*Medical Officer of Health, Tuberculosis Officer and  
School Medical Officer*

HUGH PAUL, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

*Assistant Medical Officers:*

MARGARET E. McLAREN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

JOHN S. OWEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SHEILA M. DURKIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 1.9.52).

*Chief Sanitary Inspector:* (de) JOHN H. WRIGHT, M.B.E.

*Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:* (def) R. G. EVANS.

*Sanitary Inspectors:*

(de) L. G. FRANCIS. (defg) A. E. SIGGERS (to 31.8.52).

(de) E. F. KELLY (to 2.2.52). (defg) N. W. E. COX (to 31.8.52).

(de) G. E. HAYNE. (de) H. H. BOWES.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector: T. P. JONES (from 12.5.52)

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## Administrative Staff:

*Secretary:* (d) GEORGE H. ROE

|                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (h) T. RYDER, Chief Clerk     | M. H. CRITCHLEY.              |
| (to 16.3.52).                 | R. WOOLLEY (to 24.5.52).      |
| R. M. MARTIN, Chief Clerk     | MONICA G. PARKES.             |
| (from 7.4.52).                | JOAN WOTHERSPOON              |
| (h) W. D. FODEN, Senior Clerk | (to 30.4.52).                 |
| (from 21.1.52).               | IDA FAULKNER.                 |
| FRANCES K. CALLARD            | MARGARET MORRIS.              |
| i/c M.C.W.)                   | T. A. GROSVENOR (to 10.3.52). |
| FLORENCE E. HOWLETT           | R. BAYLEY.                    |
| (i/c S.H.S.)                  | ANNE ASTON (to 31.1.52).      |
| EVELYN M. SMITH               | CLAIRE YARNELL (to 1.3.52).   |
| (M.O.H.'s Secretary).         | OLIVE SALMON (from 21.4.52).  |
| KATHLEEN L. WHISTON           | GLADYS WALL (from 1.5.52).    |
| LILIAN GREGORY                | PATRICIA M. HALL              |
| (C.S.I.'s Secretary).         | (from 19.5.52).               |
| F. A. COLLETT.                | MARIE E. FROST (from 9.6.52). |
| MARY L. WHITEHOUSE            | N. J. DAVIS (from 11.8.52).   |
| BARBARA R. EDGINGTON          | A. H. WHEATCROFT              |
| (to 8.6.52).                  | (from 18.8.52).               |

*Duly Authorised Officer:* (i) W. A. HARNDEN.

*Nursing Staff:*

*Superintendent Health Visitor:* (abc) MISS E. WILLIAMS  
(to 31.5.52).

*Superintendent Nursing Officer:* (abc) MISS M. WAINWRIGHT  
(from 1.12.52).

*Health Visitors:*

- |                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (abc) MISS J. E. ACKERS.   | (abc) MRS. D. GRAINGER.         |
| (abc) MISS M. WAINWRIGHT   | (abc) MISS M. ADAMS.            |
| (to 30.11.52).             | (bc) MISS M. RITCHIE.           |
| (abc) MISS M. E. CURRAN    | (bc) MISS G. MAY (to 31.10.52). |
| (to 31.11.52).             | (abc) MISS F. HUGHES            |
| (abc) MISS D. HUNT.        | (to 31.10.52).                  |
| (abc) MISS W. KENNY        | MRS. E. M. LAMBERT              |
| (to 23.4.52).              | (to 30.11.52).                  |
| (abc) MISS M. P. O'KEEFFE. |                                 |

*Student Health Visitor:* MISS I. BANNER (from 1.9.52).

*Clinic Nurses:*

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| (ab) MRS. B. E. SMITH | (m) MRS. H. M. WARNER. |
| (to 31.1.52).         |                        |

The work of these Health Visitors and Nurses is divided between the Health and Education Committees.

*Municipal Midwives:*

- |                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (ab) MRS. A. GROSVENOR. | (ab) MRS. M. S. FLETCHER          |
| (ab) MISS L. CHATWIN    | (to 31.1.52).                     |
| (died 31.10.52).        | (ab) MISS I. BANNER (to 31.8.52). |
| (ab) MISS M. A. KING.   | (ab) MISS N. O. SCRIVEN.          |
| (ab) MISS B. EWINGS     | (ab) MISS W. B. ROWE.             |
| (to 12.10.52.)          | (ab) MRS. D. G. HEPBURN           |
|                         | (from 24.8.52).                   |

*Home Nurses:*

*Superintendent:* (abc) MISS J. HIGH.

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| (b) MRS. M. A. WORRALL.  | (b) MRS. M. SLATER.       |
| (a) MRS. E. G. WINNETT.  | (b) MRS. M. SMITH         |
| (m) MRS. M. A. H. JONES. | (from 4.2.52).            |
| (m) MRS. E. B. WEAVER.   | MRS. J. SELVEY            |
|                          | (from 4.2.52 to 31.8.52). |

*Chiropodists:*

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (k) MISS A. M. DOBSON.     | (k) J. BEAUMONT.        |
| Matron, "The Hollies" ...  | (b) MISS D. MONCASTER.  |
| Matron, Edgbaston Road Day |                         |
| Nursery ...                | (b) MRS. G. M. LITTLER. |
| Matron, Norman Road Day    |                         |
| Nursery ...                | MRS. E. MILWARD.        |
| Matron, "Hill Crest" ...   | MRS. W. E. STEEDS.      |
| Matron, Park Hill ...      | (b) MISS V. M. SKELLY.  |
| Superintendent, Occupation |                         |
| Centre ...                 | MRS. P. E. FOWKES.      |

*Ambulance Officer:* A. F. BEACON.

*Assistant Ambulance Officer:* C. R. TWYXCROSS

*Public Analyst:* F. C. D. CHALMERS, M.A., B.Sc., F.I.C.

- a* State Certified Midwife.
- b* State Registered Nurse.
- c* Health Visitor's Certificate.
- d* Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board.
- e* Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate of the R.S.I.
- f* Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the R.S.I.
- g* Certificate in Sanitary Science.
- h* Diploma in Public Administration.
- i* Certificate of the Poor Law Examinations Board.
- j* Registered Sick Children's Nurse.
- k* Member of the Society of Chiropodists.
- l* Registered Fever Nurse.
- m* State Enrolled Assistant Nurse.

**OBITUARY**

MISS LILY CHATWIN, S.R.N., S.C.M.  
(Municipal Midwife).

Died 31st October, 1952.

# County Borough of Smethwick

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
"THE UPLANDS,"  
HALES LANE,  
SMETHWICK.

August, 1953.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors for the  
County Borough of Smethwick.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

A study of the figures given in the enclosed report suggests that Smethwick is not, after all, a bad place to live in, especially for children. Although it is an industrial town, it appears to be fairly healthy, but we would like to see less grime and smoke in the industrial zones of our borough.

The tale of infectious diseases continues to be monotonously satisfactory. No person contracted diphtheria, and there were no deaths from typhoid, paratyphoid, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, scarlet fever or dysentery. On the other hand, two children died from meningococcal meningitis a disease which is apt to be forgotten although it still remains an important cause of death in this country. One baby died of measles. Scarlet fever was more prevalent than usual, but it was only of a very mild type and it was not necessary to send any sufferer to hospital. Whooping cough was prevalent throughout the year to a much higher degree than usual, and the proportion of cases in Smethwick was nearly twice as great as that for the country as a whole. As stated, however, there were no deaths from this disease. Three persons contracted poliomyelitis, and all of them suffered from some degree of paralysis, but there were no deaths; we got off lightly. As regard dysentery there were five mild cases, all of whom recovered.

In spite of the fact that Smethwick is a healthy town, an unduly small number of babies decide to be born in it, and the birth rate fell once more to a rate which was only lower on three previous occasions. The actual corrected birth rate of 14.5 per thousand is insufficient to maintain the population. On the credit side, however, the still-birth rate was very low, being approximately half the rate of the other great towns. Fewer people died in Smethwick, and the total number (837) represents the lowest figure since before the war.

Once again we note with satisfaction that no woman died in childbirth, but the infant mortality rate, in contradistinction to the extremely low figure last year, went up to 36 per 1,000 compared with 31 in the other great towns. As the rate last year was only 28, an analysis was made of those infant deaths; this shows that only 13 of the 41 deaths occurred after the neo-natal period (first 4 weeks of life). Improved living conditions and improved social services usually eventually result in a lower infant death rate between the ages of one month and one year, and it is satisfactory to note that in Smethwick this rate is low. During the first month of life, however, 28 babies died, and on analysing these we find that a rather surprising number died because of congenital malformations. If we assume, as we may, that the congenital malformations are not preventable within the limits of our present medical knowledge, we find that exactly half of these neo-natal deaths came within the non-preventable group and the other half within the preventable group. These preventable deaths include 10 from prematurity, one from broncho-pneumonia, one from primary pneumonia, one from gastro-enteritis and one from lack of attention.

The tuberculosis death rate reached the lowest point in our history both in relation to all types of the disease and in relation to pulmonary disease and one of the brightest features of epidemiology in this country during the past four or five years has been the accelerating drop in deaths from this once dreaded disease. During the last 50 years the reduction has been enormous; even as late as 1927 the deaths in Smethwick were three times as numerous as during 1952. The credit for this can be divided fairly evenly between the continually improving standard of living of the people during this generation and the remarkable way in which the tuberculosis services have achieved a degree of professional success unequalled in any other branch of clinical medicine. During the last five years, however, the reduction in the number of deaths from tuberculosis has been still further improved by the discovery of the new antibiotics, such as streptomycin, which has enabled us to add to prevention the weapon of cure. Now for the first time in history we can cure a percentage of patients suffering from tubercle. The tuberculosis problem is not, however, without its dark side. On the credit side, in a burst of optimism we may claim that the disease is on its way out as a killer, and many of us believe as well as hope that within a measurable period of time it will kill as few people as the other infectious diseases such as diphtheria and smallpox, which add to the death rate only to a negligible extent. There are, however, still very large numbers of patients suffering from tuberculosis in its sub-acute or chronic form, and one wonders anxiously what is the degree of cure of the patients. It would be unwarrantable

optimism to suggest that a patient cured by streptomycin or by the spectacular and glamorous methods of thoracic surgery can compete in civil life with persons who have never suffered from the disease. At the best they can only physically live second-rate lives and will always require sheltered occupations. Will they relapse? Only time will tell.

On the other hand, one cannot withhold a meed of praise to the conscientious chest physicians throughout this country who have achieved remarkable success during the past two generations. Many of us feared that when the regional board took over our schemes in 1948 that the glamour of cure would swamp the infinitely more useful but infinitely less attractive aspects of prevention, and that the tuberculosis service would sink to the level of other branches of hospital care. We have built better than we knew, however, and it would appear that the tuberculosis officers trained by us in the olden days, soaked in the gospel of prevention from their early days and imbued with the desire to look upon their task in the broadest possible light, are continuing in the olden ways, and have evaded the blandishments of the sirens of curative medicine. One can only hope that the new and rising generation of chest physicians will be trained in the same way, but one cannot help but feel uneasy when one reads advertisements for chest physicians stating that the M.R.C.P. is *necessary* and that previous experience in tuberculosis is *desirable*. We must not sink to mere cure.

We have prevented so many diseases, we have abolished so many infections, we have reduced the incidence of so many other complaints that one would expect the average expectation of life to be much greater than it is at the present time, but as one disease is conquered, another rises to carry off its victims, and the two diseases which are consuming most rapidly the lives of the people of this country are cancer and deaths from violence. We may take some comfort from the fact that cancer appears to have reached its zenith and we may hope that it is now on the downgrade; in Smethwick the rate for 1952 was the lowest since 1938. There can be no complacency about deaths from violence; the 19,756 deaths from this cause in England and Wales during 1951 represents a social disease of the most serious nature. In Smethwick, 44 persons died from violence, 10 on the roads, 18 from suicide, and 16 by other violent methods; this total of 44 is, for the first time in our history, double the number of deaths from tuberculosis (22) and it is a standing and stinging reproach to our civilisation that most of them can be prevented.

The division of the Health Service into three water-tight compartments still brings us many problems which are difficult to solve.

I will not repeat what I have said in previous annual reports about the very unfortunate division of the Health Service except to say that the Service will never be satisfactory until by new legislation it is made uniform. Nevertheless, as far as goodwill, friendship, co-operation and courtesy can assist, the difficulties have been reduced to a minimum. The officers of the Regional Hospital Board, the members of the staffs of the various hospitals in the region, and the general practitioners have shown themselves always willing and anxious to co-operate, and I have found abounding sympathy and willingness when I have approached any of them for help. It is because of this peculiar British gift of adaptability and willingness to co-operate that the Service continues to give greater satisfaction than its designers deserve.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my Chairman, Alderman Mrs. Farley, and members of the Health Committee and Welfare Sub-Committee for their continued support and sympathy. I am fortunate also in having a loyal, hard-working and devoted staff who have rendered my task easier. To my colleagues in other departments I also offer my thanks. They have shown their friendship and help in the way one expects from Smethwick officials.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

HUGH PAUL,

Medical Officer of Health

# Annual Report for 1952

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA: 2,500 acres.

POPULATION: Census, 1951—76,397.

Estimated pre-war: 78,290.

Estimated civilian population mid-year 1952: 76,260

RATEABLE VALUE: April, 1953, £442,637.

ESTIMATED PRODUCT OF A PENNY RATE: £1,750.

RATES IN THE £: 20/- (April, 1953).

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HOUSES IN THE BOROUGH: 21,838.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

|                                  |        | 1952  | 1951  |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| BIRTHS: Males                    | ... .. | 602   | 574   |
| Females                          | ... .. | 531   | 578   |
|                                  |        | <hr/> | <hr/> |
|                                  |        | 1,133 | 1,152 |
|                                  |        | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Illegitimate Births included in  |        |       |       |
| above total                      | ... .. | 51    | 36    |
| Birth-rate per 1,000 population  |        | 14.5  | 14.8  |
| Comparability Factor (Births)    |        | 0.98  | 0.98  |
| Birth-rate as adjusted by Factor |        | 14.8  | 15.1  |
|                                  |        | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| DEATHS: Males                    | ... .. | 455   | 500   |
| Females                          | ... .. | 382   | 458   |
|                                  |        | <hr/> | <hr/> |
|                                  |        | 837   | 958   |
|                                  |        | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Death-rate per 1,000 population  |        | 10.9  | 12.5  |
| Comparability Factor (Deaths)    |        | 1.05  | 1.05  |
| Death-rate as adjusted by Factor |        | 11.5  | 13.2  |
|                                  |        | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| INFANT DEATHS: Males             | ... .. | 23    | 22    |
| Females                          | ... .. | 18    | 9     |
|                                  |        | <hr/> | <hr/> |
|                                  |        | 41    | 31    |
|                                  |        | <hr/> | <hr/> |

| Mortality per 1,000 births          | 1952 | 1951 |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|
| Legitimate Infants ... ..           | 35.1 | 27.7 |
| Illegitimate Infants ... ..         | 58.8 | Nil  |
| All Infants ... ..                  | 36.1 | 26.9 |
| Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks ... | 28   | 18   |
| Neo-Natal Mortality Rate ... ..     | 24.7 | 15.6 |

| DEATHS FROM:                                      | No. | 1952<br>Rate per<br>1,000<br>population | No. | 1951<br>Rate per<br>1,000<br>population |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------|
| Enteric Fever .. ..                               | —   | —                                       | —   | —                                       |
| Measles ... ..                                    | 1   | 0.01                                    | —   | —                                       |
| Whooping Cough ... ..                             | —   | —                                       | 1   | 0.01                                    |
| Diarrhoea and Enteritis<br>(under 2 years) ... .. | 1   | 0.01                                    | —   | —                                       |
| Diphtheria ... ..                                 | —   | —                                       | —   | —                                       |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..                              | —   | —                                       | —   | —                                       |
| Influenza ... ..                                  | 2   | 0.02                                    | 25  | 0.32                                    |
| Cancer ... ..                                     | 131 | 1.71                                    | 162 | 2.12                                    |
| Respiratory Diseases ... ..                       | 119 | 1.56                                    | 116 | 1.50                                    |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..                     | 21  | 0.27                                    | 37  | 0.48                                    |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis                       | 1   | 0.01                                    | 3   | 0.03                                    |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..                       | 2   | 0.02                                    | 1   | 0.01                                    |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..                        | —   | —                                       | 2   | 0.02                                    |
| Acute Infective Encephalitis                      | —   | —                                       | 2   | 0.02                                    |
| Road Traffic Accidents ... ..                     | 10  | 0.13                                    | 5   | 0.06                                    |
| Suicide ... ..                                    | 18  | 0.23                                    | 6   | 0.07                                    |
| Other violent causes ... ..                       | 16  | 0.21                                    | 11  | 0.14                                    |

# BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1952

|                                                          | Smethwick | England<br>and<br>Wales | 126<br>County Boro's<br>and<br>Great Towns<br>including<br>London | 148<br>Smaller<br>Towns<br>(Resident<br>Population<br>25,000 to<br>50,000 at<br>1931 Census) | London<br>Administra-<br>tive<br>County |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Rates per 1,000 Home Population:—                        |           |                         |                                                                   |                                                                                              |                                         |
| <b>BIRTHS:</b>                                           |           |                         |                                                                   |                                                                                              |                                         |
| Live Births .. ..                                        | 14.8      | 15.3                    | 16.9                                                              | 15.5                                                                                         | 17.6                                    |
| Still Births .. ..                                       | 0.23      | 0.35                    | 0.43                                                              | 0.36                                                                                         | 0.34                                    |
|                                                          | 15.6      | 22.6(a)                 | 24.6(a)                                                           | 23.0(a)                                                                                      | 19.2(a)                                 |
| <b>DEATHS:</b>                                           |           |                         |                                                                   |                                                                                              |                                         |
| All Causes .. ..                                         | 10.9      | 11.3                    | 12.1                                                              | 11.2                                                                                         | 12.6                                    |
| Typhoid and<br>Paratyphoid .. ..                         | —         | 0.00                    | 0.00                                                              | 0.00                                                                                         | —                                       |
| Whooping Cough ..                                        | —         | 0.00                    | 0.00                                                              | 0.00                                                                                         | 0.00                                    |
| Diphtheria .. ..                                         | —         | 0.00                    | 0.00                                                              | 0.00                                                                                         | 0.00                                    |
| Tuberculosis .. ..                                       | 0.28      | 0.24                    | 0.28                                                              | 0.22                                                                                         | 0.31                                    |
| Influenza .. ..                                          | 0.02      | 0.04                    | 0.04                                                              | 0.04                                                                                         | 0.05                                    |
| Smallpox .. ..                                           | —         | 0.00                    | —                                                                 | —                                                                                            | —                                       |
| Acute Poliomyelitis<br>(including<br>Polioencephalitis)  | —         | 0.01                    | 0.01                                                              | 0.00                                                                                         | 0.01                                    |
| Pneumonia .. ..                                          | 0.39      | 0.47                    | 0.52                                                              | 0.43                                                                                         | 0.58                                    |
| <b>NOTIFICATIONS<br/>(Corrected)</b>                     |           |                         |                                                                   |                                                                                              |                                         |
| Typhoid Fever .. ..                                      | 0.01      | 0.00                    | 0.00                                                              | 0.00                                                                                         | 0.00                                    |
| Paratyphoid Fever..                                      | 0.01      | 0.02                    | 0.02                                                              | 0.03                                                                                         | 0.01                                    |
| Meningococcal<br>Infection .. ..                         | 0.03      | 0.03                    | 0.03                                                              | 0.03                                                                                         | 0.02                                    |
| Scarlet Fever .. ..                                      | 1.83      | 1.53                    | 1.75                                                              | 1.58                                                                                         | 1.56                                    |
| Whooping Cough ..                                        | 5.10      | 2.61                    | 2.74                                                              | 2.57                                                                                         | 1.66                                    |
| Diphtheria .. ..                                         | —         | 0.01                    | 0.01                                                              | 0.03                                                                                         | 0.01                                    |
| Erysipelas .. ..                                         | 0.26      | 0.14                    | 0.15                                                              | 0.12                                                                                         | 0.14                                    |
| Smallpox .. ..                                           | —         | 0.00                    | 0.00                                                              | 0.00                                                                                         | —                                       |
| Measles .. ..                                            | 4.31      | 8.86                    | 10.11                                                             | 8.40                                                                                         | 9.23                                    |
| Pneumonia .. ..                                          | 0.61      | 0.72                    | 0.80                                                              | 0.62                                                                                         | 0.57                                    |
| Acute Poliomyelitis<br>(including<br>Polioencephalitis)  | —         | —                       | —                                                                 | —                                                                                            | —                                       |
| Paralytic .. ..                                          | 0.03      | 0.06                    | 0.06                                                              | 0.06                                                                                         | 0.06                                    |
| Non-paralytic .. ..                                      | —         | 0.03                    | 0.03                                                              | 0.02                                                                                         | 0.03                                    |
| Food Poisoning ..                                        | —         | 0.13                    | 0.16                                                              | 0.11                                                                                         | 0.18                                    |
| Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—                            |           |                         |                                                                   |                                                                                              |                                         |
| <b>DEATHS:</b>                                           |           |                         |                                                                   |                                                                                              |                                         |
| All causes under 1<br>year of age .. ..                  | 36.1      | 27.6(b)                 | 31.2                                                              | 25.8                                                                                         | 23.8                                    |
| Enteritis and<br>diarrhoea under 2<br>years of age .. .. | 0.8       | 1.1                     | 1.3                                                               | 0.5                                                                                          | 0.7                                     |
| Rates per 1,000. Total (Live and Still) Births:—         |           |                         |                                                                   |                                                                                              |                                         |
| <b>NOTIFICATIONS<br/>(Corrected):</b>                    |           |                         |                                                                   |                                                                                              |                                         |
| Puerperal Fever and<br>Pyrexia .. ..                     | 1.73      | 17.87(a)                | 23.94(a)                                                          | 10.22(a)                                                                                     | 30.77(a)                                |

(a) Per 1,000. Total (Live and Still) Births.  
(b) Per 1,000 related Live Births.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

| Intermediate List No. and cause                                           | Number of Deaths |                         | Rates per<br>1,000 Total<br>(Live & Still)<br>Births | Rates per<br>million<br>women aged<br>15-44 years |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                           | Smethwick        | England<br>and<br>Wales | England & Wales                                      |                                                   |
| A115 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth<br>and the puerperium .. ..          | —                | 61                      | 0.09                                                 | —                                                 |
| A116 Abortion with toxæmia .. ..                                          | —                | 13                      | 0.02                                                 | 1                                                 |
| A116 Other toxæmias of pregnancy<br>and the puerperium .. ..              | —                | 147                     | 0.21                                                 | —                                                 |
| A117 Hæmorrhage of pregnancy and<br>childbirth .. ..                      | —                | 59                      | 0.09                                                 | —                                                 |
| A118 Abortion without mention of<br>sepsis or toxæmia .. ..               | —                | 31                      | 0.04                                                 | 3                                                 |
| A116 Abortion with toxæmia .. ..                                          | —                | 47                      | 0.07                                                 | 5                                                 |
| A120 Other complications of preg-<br>nancy, childbirth and the puerperium | —                | 125                     | 0.18                                                 | —                                                 |

# REVIEW OF VITAL STATISTICS IN SMETHWICK DURING THE PAST 25 YEARS.

Death rate per 1,000

| Year       | Birth rate<br>per 1,000 | Death rate<br>per 1,000 | Infant mor-<br>tality rate<br>per 1,000<br>births | Zymotic<br>death rate | Respiratory<br>diseases | Pulmonary<br>Tuberculosis | Non-<br>Pulmonary<br>Tuberculosis | Cancer |
|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1928 ..... | 17.1                    | 10.0                    | 63.0                                              | 0.28                  | 1.52                    | 0.69                      | 0.10                              | 1.11   |
| 1929 ..... | 17.8                    | 13.4                    | 79.8                                              | 0.70                  | 2.58                    | 0.95                      | 0.12                              | 1.23   |
| 1930 ..... | 18.0                    | 10.4                    | 66.4                                              | 0.41                  | 1.17                    | 0.67                      | 0.11                              | 1.28   |
| 1931 ..... | 18.0                    | 11.2                    | 69.6                                              | 0.57                  | 1.63                    | 0.62                      | 0.10                              | 1.24   |
| 1932 ..... | 15.2                    | 10.5                    | 78.4                                              | 0.23                  | 1.36                    | 0.52                      | 0.09                              | 1.53   |
| 1933 ..... | 14.4                    | 10.8                    | 62.0                                              | 0.16                  | 1.60                    | 0.62                      | 0.05                              | 1.44   |
| 1934 ..... | 15.7                    | 10.6                    | 56.9                                              | 0.22                  | 1.60                    | 0.57                      | 0.14                              | 1.20   |
| 1935 ..... | 14.7                    | 11.1                    | 60.9                                              | 0.31                  | 1.10                    | 0.59                      | 0.06                              | 1.56   |
| 1936 ..... | 15.5                    | 10.5                    | 59.9                                              | 0.18                  | 1.60                    | 0.54                      | 0.02                              | 1.47   |
| 1937 ..... | 14.6                    | 11.5                    | 52.5                                              | 0.27                  | 1.64                    | 0.70                      | 0.02                              | 1.35   |
| 1938 ..... | 15.3                    | 11.0                    | 62.2                                              | 0.25                  | 1.28                    | 0.70                      | 0.10                              | 1.59   |
| 1939 ..... | 14.8                    | 10.7                    | 54.5                                              | 0.26                  | 1.04                    | 0.52                      | 0.05                              | 1.79   |
| 1940 ..... | 15.3                    | 14.0                    | 41.9                                              | 0.14                  | 2.72                    | 0.61                      | 0.07                              | 1.86   |
| 1941 ..... | 15.09                   | 13.9                    | 60.0                                              | 0.18                  | 2.10                    | 0.84                      | 0.06                              | 1.89   |
| 1942 ..... | 17.2                    | 12.0                    | 54.5                                              | 0.16                  | 1.81                    | 0.70                      | 0.08                              | 1.92   |
| 1943 ..... | 18.6                    | 13.08                   | 64.5                                              | 0.24                  | 2.03                    | 0.84                      | 0.05                              | 2.15   |
| 1944 ..... | 20.6                    | 12.2                    | 45.0                                              | 0.26                  | 1.14                    | 0.80                      | 0.07                              | 2.05   |
| 1945 ..... | 18.6                    | 12.8                    | 50.4                                              | 0.08                  | 1.53                    | 0.79                      | 0.08                              | 1.99   |
| 1946 ..... | 20.09                   | 12.28                   | 50.1                                              | 0.18                  | 1.62                    | 0.73                      | 0.05                              | 1.94   |
| 1947 ..... | 21.2                    | 11.7                    | 42.9                                              | 0.11                  | 1.33                    | 0.67                      | 0.13                              | 1.75   |
| 1948 ..... | 18.8                    | 10.98                   | 28.9                                              | 0.02                  | 1.32                    | 0.62                      | —                                 | 2.03   |
| 1949 ..... | 17.1                    | 12.6                    | 41.3                                              | 0.14                  | 1.66                    | 0.58                      | 0.06                              | 2.06   |
| 1950 ..... | 15.4                    | 11.4                    | 30.0                                              | 0.05                  | 1.44                    | 0.56                      | 0.02                              | 2.08   |
| 1951 ..... | 15.1                    | 12.5                    | 26.9                                              | 0.01                  | 1.50                    | 0.48                      | 0.03                              | 2.12   |
| 1952 ..... | 14.8                    | 10.9                    | 36.1                                              | 0.02                  | 1.56                    | 0.27                      | 0.01                              | 1.71   |

## INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

### SCARLET FEVER.

The incidence of, and mortality from, scarlet fever during the past five years is as follows:—

| Year       | Cases<br>Notified | Attack rate<br>per 1,000<br>population | Number<br>of deaths | Case<br>mortality<br>per cent. |
|------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1948 ..... | 119               | 1.54                                   | —                   | —                              |
| 1949 ..... | 113               | 1.46                                   | —                   | —                              |
| 1950 ..... | 99                | 1.28                                   | —                   | —                              |
| 1951 ..... | 93                | 1.22                                   | —                   | —                              |
| 1952 ..... | 140               | 1.83                                   | —                   | —                              |

The history of scarlet fever during the past few years has been pleasantly monotonous. There have been no deaths and the type of case notified has been mild. As the organism which causes scarlet fever is the same as that which causes sore throat and quinsy, it is difficult to say what advantage we have received from the notification of cases of scarlet fever, in view of the fact that we have no information about sore throats.

### DIPHTHERIA.

The incidence of, and mortality from, diphtheria during the past five years is as follows:—

| Year .     | Cases<br>Notified | Attack rate<br>per 1,000<br>population | Number<br>of deaths | Case<br>mortality<br>per cent. |
|------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1948 ..... | 4                 | 0.05                                   | —                   | —                              |
| 1949 ..... | 12                | 0.15                                   | —                   | —                              |
| 1950 ..... | —                 | —                                      | —                   | —                              |
| 1951 ..... | 1                 | —                                      | —                   | —                              |
| 1952 ..... | —                 | —                                      | —                   | —                              |

In view of the fact that the incidence of diphtheria in the southern half of Staffordshire has been abnormally high and that in 1951 no fewer than 20 per cent of all the cases in the country occurred in South Staffordshire, the last three lines in the above table are very comforting. It is rather early yet, however, for complacency.

### TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVER.

Two notifications of typhoid fever were received in 1952. One was confirmed and the other was finally diagnosed as P.U.O. Two cases of paratyphoid fever were also notified. One was confirmed and the final diagnosis of the second was given as "virus infection."

## MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS.

Three cases were notified, all of children between the ages of 1 and 5. Two had a fatal termination. It must not be forgotten that although this disease seldom gets into the public press and is not "news," its incidence in the country is still high and it still kills one out of every five or six of its victims.

## WHOOPING COUGH.

There was a slight reduction in the number of cases of whooping cough, and there were no deaths. The incidence of this disease does not appear to vary much from year to year or from season to season. It still remains, however, one of the dangerous diseases of childhood, but there is promise that in the reasonably near future we may be able to prevent it as effectively as we have prevented diphtheria during the past decade.

|                | Cases notified |      |      |      | Attack-rate |      |      |      |
|----------------|----------------|------|------|------|-------------|------|------|------|
|                | 1949           | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1949        | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 |
| Whooping Cough | 222            | 347  | 425  | 389  | 2.86        | 4.48 | 5.57 | 5.10 |

## MEASLES.

There are no ways known to medical science of preventing outbreaks of measles, although in individual cases it is possible to protect a contact who is in special danger. Measles, however, has a biennial incidence and the table below shows that 1949 and 1951 in Smethwick were measles years, whereas 1950 and 1952 showed a low incidence. There was, unfortunately, one death, a child under 1 year of age.

|               | Cases notified |      |       |      | Attack-rate |      |       |      |
|---------------|----------------|------|-------|------|-------------|------|-------|------|
|               | 1949           | 1950 | 1951  | 1952 | 1949        | 1950 | 1951  | 1952 |
| Measles ..... | 1,009          | 321  | 1,449 | 329  | 13.03       | 4.14 | 18.99 | 4.31 |

## POLIOMYELITIS.

There were three confirmed cases of poliomyelitis, and all these suffered from some degree of paralysis. There were fortunately no deaths.

## DYSENTERY.

There were five cases of dysentery. All were mild and recovered.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1952

| Disease                  | TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED |     |     |     |      |       |       |       |       |             | TOTAL DEATHS |     |     |      |       |       |             |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|--------------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------------|
|                          | Age Groups           |     |     |     |      |       |       |       |       |             | Age Groups   |     |     |      |       |       |             |
|                          | All ages             | 0-1 | 1-3 | 3-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-25 | 25-45 | 45-65 | 65 and over | All ages     | 0-1 | 1-5 | 5-15 | 15-45 | 45-65 | 65 and over |
| Smallpox                 | ..                   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..          | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever | 1                    | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | 1     | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..          | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Paratyphoid Fever        | 1                    | ..  | ..  | ..  | 1    | 21    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..          | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Scarlet Fever            | 140                  | ..  | 13  | 28  | 73   | ..    | 3     | 2     | ..    | ..          | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Diphtheria               | ..                   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..          | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Erysipelas               | 20                   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | 1     | 1     | 14    | 4           | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Puerperal Pyrexia        | 2                    | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | 2     | ..    | ..          | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum    | ..                   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..          | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever     | 3                    | ..  | 1   | 2   | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..          | 2            | ..  | 2   | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Acute Encephalitis       | ..                   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..          | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| *Acute Poliomyelitis     | 3                    | ..  | ..  | ..  | 1    | ..    | 1     | ..    | ..    | ..          | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Malaria...               | 1                    | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | 1     | ..    | ..          | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Dysentery                | 5                    | ..  | ..  | 1   | ..   | ..    | ..    | 1     | ..    | ..          | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Acute Pneumonia          | 47                   | 7   | 1   | 5   | 4    | ..    | 2     | 2     | 2     | ..          | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Whooping Cough           | 389                  | 32  | 101 | 126 | 124  | 5     | 2     | 9     | 12    | 7           | 30           | 7   | 2   | ..   | 1     | 4     | 16          |
| Measles...               | 329                  | 12  | 83  | 75  | 145  | 10    | 3     | 1     | ..    | ..          | 1            | ..  | 1   | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Food Poisoning           | ..                   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..          | ..           | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..          |
| Totals                   | 941                  | 51  | 199 | 237 | 348  | 37    | 10    | 20    | 28    | 11          | 33           | 7   | 5   | ..   | 1     | 4     | 16          |

\*Paralytic ... 3  
Non-paralytic ... —

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

### VACCINATION.

Since the repeal of the Vaccination Acts efforts to secure the vaccination of infants have been attended with a greater measure of success than was achieved under the old system, amounting to 40—45% of live births against 25—30% in pre-war years. Most of these vaccinations are carried out by the general practitioners, but special sessions have been arranged at the Infant Welfare Centres which have attracted a good number of mothers. During 1952, in order to avoid the delay occasioned by waiting for a sufficient number of “consents” to make a special session practicable, we have substituted individual vaccinations at *any* session of an Infant Welfare Centre.

Publicity is given by posters in the Infant Welfare Centres and in the surgeries of general practitioners. The Health Visitors, during their domiciliary visits, urge the importance of vaccination.

The following is a record of the vaccinations carried out during the years 1950, 1951 and 1952.

|                                        | Primary<br>Vaccinations. |      |      | Re-Vaccinations. |      |      |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|------|------|------------------|------|------|
|                                        | 1950                     | 1951 | 1952 | 1950             | 1951 | 1952 |
| Children under one year ...            | 348                      | 499  | 448  | —                | —    | 2    |
| Children aged 1—4 years                | 38                       | 40   | 23   | 1                | 1    | 3    |
| Children aged 5—14 years               | 20                       | 30   | 4    | —                | 1    | 2    |
| Persons over 15 years of<br>age ... .. | 34                       | 39   | 12   | 46               | 74   | 52   |
|                                        | —                        | —    | —    | —                | —    | —    |
|                                        | 440                      | 608  | 487  | 47               | 76   | 59   |
|                                        | —                        | —    | —    | —                | —    | —    |

### IMMUNISATION.

The national publicity campaign has been supplemented by posters and leaflets in the Centres and at the Health Offices, by personal talks at the Centres, and by the Health Visitors in the homes. “Birthday Greetings” are posted to each child attaining the age of one year.

The co-operation of general practitioners has been helpful, and an increasing number of children are being immunised by them. Immunisations are carried out by our own Medical Officers at the Infant Welfare Centres, and also by the Health Visitors in the children’s own homes.

A separate record of births (compiled monthly) is kept by each Health Visitor and these are followed up until immunisation has been secured or a succession of definite refusals is received from the parents.

“Booster” doses are normally given when the immunised child attends school, and again at the age of ten years, and efforts are made to persuade the parents of school children who have not previously been protected to have the child immunised in school.

The number of children immunised during the past five years is as follows:—

|            | Children under<br>5 years of age. | Children from<br>5—15 years. | Total |
|------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| 1948 ..... | 1,132                             | 808                          | 1,940 |
| 1949 ..... | 1,087                             | 943                          | 2,030 |
| 1950 ..... | 627                               | 121                          | 748   |
| 1951 ..... | 1,308                             | 166                          | 1,474 |
| 1952 ..... | 1,111                             | 366                          | 1,477 |

During the year 1952, 1,103 children received reinforcing injections. At the end of the year 60.7% of the child population under five had received protection, and 93.5% of school children.

## VENEREAL DISEASES

Returns from the treatment centre at the General Hospital, Birmingham, show the number of Smethwick patients dealt with for the first time as under:—

|                                          | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 |
|------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Syphilis ... ..                          | 21   | 11   | 17   | 9    | 10   |
| Gonorrhoea ... ..                        | 38   | 26   | 13   | 19   | 32   |
| Conditions other than<br>Venereal ... .. | 106  | 101  | 90   | 69   | 86   |
|                                          | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    |
|                                          | 165  | 138  | 120  | 97   | 128  |
|                                          | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    |

# TUBERCULOSIS

## NOTIFICATIONS.

The following table shows the notifications received and the attack rate with the deaths and death-rate for each year since the commencement of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912:—

|      |     | Notifications received: |             | Attack Rate per 1,000 of the population: |             | Deaths     |             | Death-rate |             |
|------|-----|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|      |     | Pulmon-ary              | Other forms | Pulmon-ary                               | Other forms | Pulmon-ary | Other forms | Pulmon-ary | Other forms |
| 1913 | ... | 318                     | 50          | 4.3                                      | 0.68        | 64         | 20          | 0.87       | 0.27        |
| 1914 | ... | 143                     | 167         | 1.9                                      | 2.2         | 84         | 14          | 1.15       | 0.19        |
| 1915 | ... | 229                     | 103         | 3.1                                      | 1.4         | 79         | 15          | 1.09       | 0.21        |
| 1916 | ... | 204                     | 117         | 2.6                                      | 1.4         | 91         | 12          | 1.16       | 0.15        |
| 1917 | ... | 206                     | 126         | 2.6                                      | 1.6         | 103        | 6           | 1.31       | 0.07        |
| 1918 | ... | 194                     | 80          | 2.5                                      | 1.0         | 97         | 11          | 1.27       | 0.14        |
| 1919 | ... | 260                     | 60          | 3.5                                      | 0.8         | 87         | 9           | 1.19       | 0.12        |
| 1920 | ... | 146                     | 31          | 1.9                                      | 0.4         | 62         | 24          | 0.81       | 0.31        |
| 1921 | ... | 88                      | 14          | 1.1                                      | 0.18        | 53         | 17          | 0.68       | 0.22        |
| 1922 | ... | 112                     | 17          | 1.4                                      | 0.2         | 61         | 25          | 0.78       | 0.32        |
| 1923 | ... | 80                      | 18          | 1.02                                     | 0.2         | 73         | 14          | 0.93       | 0.17        |
| 1924 | ... | 110                     | 18          | 1.39                                     | 0.2         | 53         | 14          | 0.67       | 0.17        |
| 1925 | ... | 74                      | 24          | 0.9                                      | 0.3         | 61         | 19          | 0.77       | 0.24        |
| 1926 | ... | 94                      | 16          | 1.2                                      | 0.2         | 61         | 8           | 0.79       | 0.10        |
| 1927 | ... | 87                      | 38          | 1.1                                      | 0.49        | 65         | 4           | 0.84       | 0.05        |
| 1928 | ... | 73                      | 25          | 0.8                                      | 0.29        | 59         | 9           | 0.69       | 0.10        |
| 1929 | ... | 108                     | 34          | 1.2                                      | 0.4         | 81         | 11          | 0.95       | 0.12        |
| 1930 | ... | 76                      | 19          | 0.89                                     | 0.22        | 57         | 10          | 0.67       | 0.11        |
| 1931 | ... | 80                      | 29          | 0.93                                     | 0.33        | 53         | 9           | 0.62       | 0.10        |
| 1932 | ... | 65                      | 20          | 0.76                                     | 0.23        | 44         | 8           | 0.52       | 0.09        |
| 1933 | ... | 55                      | 16          | 0.64                                     | 0.19        | 53         | 5           | 0.62       | 0.05        |
| 1934 | ... | 72                      | 19          | 0.85                                     | 0.22        | 48         | 12          | 0.57       | 0.14        |
| 1935 | ... | 95                      | 19          | 1.15                                     | 0.23        | 49         | 5           | 0.59       | 0.06        |
| 1936 | ... | 81                      | 21          | 0.99                                     | 0.25        | 44         | 2           | 0.54       | 0.02        |
| 1937 | ... | 77                      | 4           | 0.95                                     | 0.04        | 57         | 2           | 0.70       | 0.02        |
| 1938 | ... | 78                      | 20          | 0.97                                     | 0.25        | 56         | 8           | 0.70       | 0.10        |
| 1939 | ... | 89                      | 15          | 1.11                                     | 0.19        | 40         | 4           | 0.52       | 0.05        |
| 1940 | ... | 52                      | 15          | 0.72                                     | 0.20        | 44         | 5           | 0.61       | 0.07        |
| 1941 | ... | 83                      | 10          | 1.15                                     | 0.14        | 61         | 5           | 0.84       | 0.06        |
| 1942 | ... | 102                     | 28          | 1.40                                     | 0.38        | 51         | 6           | 0.70       | 0.08        |
| 1943 | ... | 92                      | 20          | 1.27                                     | 0.27        | 61         | 4           | 0.84       | 0.05        |
| 1944 | ... | 126                     | 17          | 1.74                                     | 0.23        | 58         | 5           | 0.80       | 0.07        |
| 1945 | ... | 151                     | 26          | 2.1                                      | 0.37        | 57         | 6           | 0.79       | 0.08        |
| 1946 | ... | 149                     | 16          | 2.00                                     | 0.21        | 55         | 4           | 0.73       | 0.05        |
| 1947 | ... | 165                     | 12          | 2.18                                     | 0.15        | 51         | 10          | 0.67       | 0.13        |
| 1948 | ... | 216                     | 14          | 2.80                                     | 0.18        | 48         | —           | 0.62       | —           |
| 1949 | ... | 182                     | 15          | 2.35                                     | 0.19        | 45         | 5           | 0.58       | 0.06        |
| 1950 | ... | 179                     | 11          | 2.31                                     | 0.14        | 44         | 2           | 0.56       | 0.02        |
| 1951 | ... | 154                     | 15          | 2.01                                     | 0.19        | 37         | 3           | 0.48       | 0.03        |
| 1952 | ... | 129                     | 15          | 1.69                                     | 0.19        | 21         | 1           | 0.27       | 0.01        |

# TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the total NEW CASES, i.e., all PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS and also NEW CASES coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health from the death returns, transfers from other areas, etc.

| AGE PERIODS. | 1952       |    |   |              |   |   | 1951       |    |   |              |   |   | 1950       |    |   |              |    |   |
|--------------|------------|----|---|--------------|---|---|------------|----|---|--------------|---|---|------------|----|---|--------------|----|---|
|              | Pulmonary. |    |   | Other forms. |   |   | Pulmonary. |    |   | Other forms. |   |   | Pulmonary. |    |   | Other forms. |    |   |
|              | M          |    | F | M            | F |   | M          |    | F | M            | F |   | M          |    | F | M            | F  |   |
|              | M          | F  |   | M            | F |   | M          | F  |   | M            | F |   | M          | F  |   | M            | F  |   |
| 0 to 1       | 2          | —  | — | —            | — | — | —          | —  | — | —            | — | — | 1          | —  | — | —            | —  | — |
| 1 to 5       | 12         | 4  | — | —            | 1 | — | 5          | 10 | — | —            | — | — | —          | —  | — | —            | —  | — |
| 5 to 10      | 11         | 10 | — | 1            | — | — | 16         | 15 | — | —            | 1 | — | —          | 4  | — | —            | —  | — |
| 10 to 15     | 3          | 4  | — | 1            | 1 | — | 5          | 6  | — | 4            | — | — | —          | 1  | — | 3            | —  | — |
| 15 to 20     | 6          | 5  | — | 1            | 1 | — | 8          | 10 | — | 1            | 1 | — | 6          | 4  | — | 2            | 2  | — |
| 20 to 25     | 4          | 8  | — | —            | 3 | — | 5          | 6  | — | —            | 1 | — | 5          | 6  | — | 2            | 1  | — |
| 25 to 35     | 11         | 6  | — | 1            | — | — | 7          | 10 | — | 2            | 1 | — | 12         | 12 | — | —            | 2  | — |
| 35 to 45     | 4          | 3  | — | 3            | 1 | — | 9          | 3  | — | 1            | — | — | 7          | 4  | — | 2            | 2  | — |
| 45 to 55     | 15         | 7  | — | 1            | — | — | 18         | 8  | — | —            | — | — | 8          | 3  | — | —            | 1  | — |
| 55 to 65     | 10         | 1  | — | —            | — | — | 13         | 3  | — | 1            | — | — | 7          | 5  | — | 1            | 1  | — |
| 65 to 75     | 4          | 1  | — | —            | — | — | 2          | —  | — | —            | 1 | — | 1          | —  | — | —            | 1  | — |
| 75 upwards   | 2          | —  | — | —            | — | — | —          | —  | — | 1            | — | — | —          | —  | — | —            | —  | — |
| TOTALS       | 84         | 49 | — | 8            | 7 | — | 88         | 71 | — | 10           | 5 | — | 47         | 39 | — | 10           | 10 | — |

The deaths from tuberculosis during 1951 and 1952 are shown as follows:—

| AGE PERIODS. | 1952      |    |             |    | 1951      |    |             |    |
|--------------|-----------|----|-------------|----|-----------|----|-------------|----|
|              | Pulmonary |    | Other forms |    | Pulmonary |    | Other forms |    |
|              | M.        | F. | M.          | F. | M.        | F. | M.          | F. |
| 0 to 1       | —         | —  | —           | —  | —         | —  | —           | —  |
| 1 to 5       | —         | —  | —           | —  | —         | —  | 1           | —  |
| 5 to 15      | —         | —  | —           | —  | 1         | —  | —           | —  |
| 15 to 45     | 3         | 4  | —           | 1  | 6         | 5  | 1           | —  |
| 45 to 65     | 9         | —  | —           | —  | 18        | 4  | —           | —  |
| 65 upward    | 3         | 2  | —           | —  | 3         | —  | 1           | —  |
| TOTALS ...   | 15        | 6  | —           | 1  | 28        | 9  | 3           | —  |

The number of cases remaining on the Dispensary Register on 31st December, 1952, was 1,174.

|                     |       |                         |     |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------------|-----|
| Pulmonary—Males ... | 373   | Non-Pulmonary—Males ... | 20  |
| Females ...         | 260   | Females ...             | 23  |
| Children ...        | 387   | Children ...            | 111 |
|                     | 1,020 |                         | 154 |

Attendances at the Chest Clinic were as under:—

|                                  | 1949  | 1950  | 1951  | 1952  |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total attendances ...            | 7,348 | 8,010 | 6,907 | 5,170 |
| First Examinations ...           | 1,005 | 1,050 | 1,029 | 817   |
| Re-examinations ...              | 2,648 | 2,659 | 3,034 | 3,134 |
| Consultations ...                | 3,695 | 4,301 | 2,844 | 1,219 |
| Mantoux Tests ...                | 318   | 374   | 415   | 191   |
| Artificial-pneumothorax ...      | 1,016 | 861   | 948   | 1,326 |
| Gold Treatment ...               | 6     | 10    | 20    | —     |
| Number of X-ray examinations ... | 2,313 | 2,512 | 2,611 | 2,449 |

Visits to patients at home:—

|                                                    |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) By Health Visitor ...                          | 850 | 950 | 785 | 745 |
| (b) By Clinical T.O. ...                           | 198 | 175 | 163 | 55  |
| Patients admitted to Sanatoria ...                 | 105 | 138 | 133 | 74  |
| Patients discharged from Sanatoria ...             | 94  | 98  | 115 | 68  |
| Patients died in Sanatoria ...                     | 17  | 9   | 12  | 4   |
| Patients remaining in Sanatoria at end of year ... | 39  | 70  | 44  | 46  |

# RETURN SHOWING THE WORK OF THE DISPENSARY DURING THE YEAR 1952

| DIAGNOSIS.                                                                                                     | PULMONARY. |     |          |     | NON-PULMONARY. |     |          |     | TOTAL. |     |          |     | Grand Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----|----------|-----|----------------|-----|----------|-----|--------|-----|----------|-----|-------------|
|                                                                                                                | Adults     |     | Children |     | Adults         |     | Children |     | Adults |     | Children |     |             |
|                                                                                                                | M.         | F.  | M.       | F.  | M.             | F.  | M.       | F.  | M.     | F.  | M.       | F.  |             |
| A. (1) Number of definite cases of Tuberculosis on the Dispensary Register at the beginning of the Year ... .. | 334        | 240 | 171      | 179 | 17             | 19  | 59       | 49  | 351    | 259 | 230      | 228 | 1068        |
| (2) Transfers from Authorities of areas outside that of the Council or Board during the Year ... ..            | 5          | 3   | ...      | ... | ...            | 1   | ...      | ... | 5      | 4   | ...      | ... | 9           |
| (3) Lost sight of cases returned during the Year ... ..                                                        | ...        | ... | ...      | ... | ...            | ... | ...      | ... | ...    | ... | ...      | ... | ...         |
| B. Number of New Cases diagnosed as tuberculous during the Year                                                | 19         | 14  | 26       | 18  | ...            | ... | ...      | ... | 19     | 14  | 26       | 18  | 77          |
| (1) Class T.B. minus ... ..                                                                                    | 49         | 19  | ...      | ... | ...            | ... | ...      | ... | 49     | 19  | ...      | ... | 68          |
| (2) Class T.B. plus ... ..                                                                                     | ...        | ... | ...      | ... | 6              | 7   | 3        | ... | 6      | 7   | 3        | ... | 16          |
| (3) Non-pulmonary ... ..                                                                                       | ...        | ... | ...      | ... | ...            | ... | ...      | ... | ...    | ... | ...      | ... | ...         |
| C. Number of cases included in A. and B. written off the Dispensary Register during the Year as:—              |            |     |          |     |                |     |          |     |        |     |          |     |             |
| (1) Recovered ... ..                                                                                           | 10         | 8   | 2        | 1   | 2              | 2   | ...      | ... | 12     | 10  | 2        | 1   | 25          |
| (2) Dead (all causes) ... ..                                                                                   | 18         | 6   | ...      | ... | 1              | 1   | ...      | ... | 19     | 7   | ...      | ... | 26          |
| (3) Removed to other Areas ... ..                                                                              | 6          | 1   | 3        | 1   | ...            | ... | ...      | ... | 6      | 1   | 3        | 1   | 11          |
| (4) For other reasons ... ..                                                                                   | ...        | 1   | ...      | ... | ...            | 1   | ...      | ... | ...    | 2   | ...      | ... | 2           |
| D. Number of definite cases of Tuberculosis on the Dispensary Register at the end of the Year ... ..           | 373        | 260 | 192      | 195 | 20             | 23  | 62       | 49  | 393    | 283 | 254      | 244 | 1238        |

Dr. Russell has furnished the following report on the work of the Chest Clinic:—

In 1952 a new record was established. The number of deaths from tuberculosis during the year reached the very low figure of 27. This is the fewest number of deaths from this disease ever recorded in Smethwick.

All over the country the death rate from tuberculosis has been declining progressively over the last 70 years. In the main this has been due to steady improvement in social conditions, housing, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation, although improved methods of treatment have played a part. It is necessary to regard this record low mortality rate without undue optimism.

In the last few years new drugs have saved many patients who otherwise would have died, and have given others an extended lease of life. Unfortunately, some of these patients harbour tuberculosis germs which become resistant to the drugs, and should these resistant germs be passed on to another person, the drugs may not be so effective in the treatment of the fresh case. The new drugs have also made it possible to extend the use of surgical treatment in more cases, some of whom would have been previously considered inoperable. As yet we cannot assess fully the final results of these recent advances in treatment, and we should *not* expect the death rate to continue to fall. Indeed, it is quite likely that it will rise above the 1952 record low figure.

The old established methods of treatment are still necessary, and constant care in personal hygiene by the individual patient is essential in limiting the spread of the disease. It must never be forgotten that tuberculosis is an infectious disease, and prevention is far better than cure, no matter how spectacular the cure may be.

In Smethwick another method of prevention was started at the Chest Clinic. By the end of the year 11 contact children had been given B.C.G. vaccination, and it is hoped to extend this vaccination of suitable contacts during 1953. This is in addition to the Medical Research Council's scheme for children about to leave school, which is carried out by a visiting doctor half-yearly.

During 1952 a considerable volume of work was performed at the Chest Clinic in spite of staffing difficulties. Until July, when I returned from Walsall, locum doctors carried on the medical duties. There was difficulty in obtaining a suitable nurse, but Miss Evans came in April and has been endeavouring valiantly to overtake the arrears in home visiting. In March Miss Powell came as full-time

clerk, and Mrs. Dixon has continued to give part-time clerical help. Throughout the year Mrs. Hastings has given valuable assistance, carrying out all the X-ray work. I would like to express by personal appreciation of the very great help given to me by these ladies.

In December the work of installing a new X-ray plant was commenced and the opportunity was taken to improve the darkroom facilities and to tile the X-ray room floor. The new X-ray set came into operation at the end of January, 1953.

During 1952, extensive building alterations have been taking place at Holly Lane Hospital, which is being converted to a Neuro-Surgical Hospital. This will result in a reduction in the number of beds available for the treatment of tuberculosis patients. At the end of 1952 there were 32 beds occupied by tuberculosis cases, but early in 1953 all the Wards, except the one original tuberculosis pavilion, were taken over by the builders, leaving only 22 beds. There are still 17 beds at Romsley Hill Sanatorium for Smethwick patients, but we have already lost the beds at Creaton Sanatorium and Royal National Hospital, Ventnor, and are likely to lose the beds at Crossley Sanatorium in 1953. Cases requiring surgical treatment continue to be admitted to Yardley Green Hospital. It is to be hoped that the loss of beds will be made up elsewhere in the Birmingham Region, otherwise Smethwick patients will have to wait a much longer time for treatment. This would be a most unfortunate thing as, in Smethwick hitherto, the waiting list has always been extremely small. Early treatment means early cure.

At Holly Lane Hospital, Matron's duties have been carried out by Miss Murphy, who visits from Heath Lane Hospital, West Bromwich, but it has not been possible to obtain fully trained nursing staff. In spite of these difficulties, as many patients as beds were available for, have been treated, and Dr. Owen has continued to give me great assistance in their medical care.

One child was sent to Denmark under the Anglo-Danish Society scheme, and received free treatment for six months in the Vordingborg Children's Sanatorium. During the year full use was made of the Smethwick Council's free milk scheme to help children with "primary infection" to overcome their disease. Quite a number of tuberculosis families were rehoused, a most important method of preventing spread of infection. There are some patients who remain infectious, even after prolonged treatment, and whose home conditions are overcrowded or who have no home or relatives of their own and cannot obtain lodgings. Such cases have to be kept in Sanatorium when they would be better accommodated in a Hostel,

the provision of which would be a most helpful preventative measure. Patients, after treatment, when considered fit, have benefited from rehabilitation courses and training in new occupations under the Ministry of Labour schemes.

At the end of 1952, there were 1,174 cases on the register, again an increase over the previous year. The number of new cases examined was 817, about 200 fewer than in recent years, but 2,449 X-ray examinations were made. As already noted, the number of deaths was the lowest on record. During the year 31 patients were discharged as recovered.

# INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1952

| CAUSE OF DEATH                 | 0-1 week | 1-2 weeks | 2-3 weeks | 3-4 weeks | Total under 4 weeks | 1-2 m'ths | 2-3 m'ths | 3-4 m'ths | 4-5 m'ths | 5-6 m'ths | 6-7 m'ths | 7-8 m'ths | 8-9 m'ths | 9-10 m'ths | 10-11 m'ths | 11-12 m'ths | Total |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| Measles ...                    | ...      | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...                 | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | 1          | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| Bronchitis ...                 | ...      | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...                 | ...       | ...       | ...       | 1         | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| Broncho-Pneumonia ...          | 1        | ...       | ...       | ...       | 1                   | ...       | 1         | 1         | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | 2          | ...         | ...         | 5     |
| Primary Pneumonia ...          | ...      | ...       | 1         | ...       | 1                   | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | 1         | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 2     |
| Gastro-Enteritis ...           | ...      | ...       | 1         | ...       | ...                 | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| Kaposi's varicelliform ...     | ...      | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...                 | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | 1          | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| Pyocephalus eruption ...       | ...      | 1         | ...       | ...       | 1                   | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| Anencephalus ...               | 1        | ...       | ...       | ...       | 1                   | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| Mongolism ...                  | ...      | 1         | ...       | ...       | 1                   | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| Spina bifida ...               | 1        | ...       | ...       | ...       | 1                   | ...       | ...       | 1         | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| Meningocele ...                | ...      | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...                 | 1         | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 2     |
| Cong. Polycystic Kidneys ...   | 1        | ...       | ...       | ...       | 1                   | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| Hydrocephalus ...              | 2        | ...       | ...       | ...       | 2                   | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| Patent ductus arteriosus ...   | 1        | ...       | ...       | ...       | 1                   | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 2     |
| Congenital heart disease ...   | 1        | 1         | ...       | ...       | 2                   | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | 2         | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| Multiple cong. deformities ... | 1        | 1         | ...       | ...       | 2                   | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 4     |
| Atelectasis ...                | 1        | ...       | ...       | ...       | 1                   | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 2     |
| Cerebral hæmorrhage ...        | 1        | ...       | ...       | ...       | 1                   | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| Premature Birth ...            | 10       | ...       | ...       | ...       | 10                  | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| Asphyxia ...                   | ...      | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...                 | ...       | 1         | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 10    |
| Lack of attention ...          | 1        | ...       | ...       | ...       | 1                   | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...        | ...         | ...         | 1     |
| TOTALS:—                       | 22       | 4         | 2         | ...       | 28                  | 1         | 2         | 2         | 1         | 3         | ...       | ...       | ...       | 4          | ...         | ...         | 41    |

## MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

### NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

The number of births notified during the past five years under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as adjusted by transferred notifications, was as follows:—

|                  | 1948              | 1949              | 1950              | 1951              | 1952              |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Live Births ...  | 1,465             | 1,327             | 1,197             | 1,160             | 1,124             |
| Still Births ... | 31                | 27                | 21                | 23                | 17                |
|                  | <hr/> 1,496 <hr/> | <hr/> 1,354 <hr/> | <hr/> 1,218 <hr/> | <hr/> 1,183 <hr/> | <hr/> 1,141 <hr/> |

Comparison with the returns of the local Registrar shows that very few births escape notification.

### CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

#### EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS

One Ante-Natal Clinic is provided at the "Firs," Coopers Lane. Two sessions each week are conducted by the obstetrician and two sessions each week by the midwives. All primary examinations of hospital booked cases are made at St. Chad's Hospital, Hagley Road, Birmingham. The number of individual women attending the Ante-Natal Clinic in 1952 was 850, and there were 4,172 attendances.

For many years prior to the "appointed day" the Council had two Ante-Natal Clinics, one at the "Firs" Clinic and one at the Cape Clinic. Nine sessions were held weekly. In 1948, 1,506 individual women attended and made 11,599 attendances.

The numbers in succeeding years have been as follows:—

|          | Individual Women |     | Total Attendances |  |
|----------|------------------|-----|-------------------|--|
| 1949 ... | 1,224            | ... | 8,935             |  |
| 1950 ... | 943              | ... | 7,325             |  |
| 1951 ... | 944              | ... | 5,398             |  |
| 1952 ... | 850              | ... | 4,172             |  |

The two main reasons for this falling off are (a) the obstetrics officer, who was, and continues to be employed jointly between the clinic and St. Chad's Hospital (formerly the Council's municipal hospital) has gradually withdrawn his patients to the hospital, and (b) an increasing number of women are receiving ante-natal care from their private doctor.

In regard to post-natal care, two weekly sessions were held (one at the "Firs" and one at the Cape clinic), and were continued until 1950, when they were closed, as the obstetric officer found it more convenient to see his patients at the hospital.

Domiciliary cases are seen by the general practitioners, that is in "booked" cases, and there is an arrangement by which the Local Executive Council notifies the Medical Officer of Health of the names and addresses of women who have failed to keep appointments with their private doctor. These women are visited by a health visitor and urged to attend without delay.

In regard to unmarried mothers, there is a very active branch of the Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare in the borough, and very close liaison is maintained between its officers and those of the local health authority. The Council makes a grant of £200 annually to their funds, and the Chairman of the Health Committee, a lady Assistant Medical Officer, and the Superintendent Nursing Officer attend the meetings.

All facilities provided by the Department are, of course, freely available to unmarried mothers. Confinements usually take place in one of the Birmingham hospitals. Before and after the birth of her baby, the mother may spend some time in the Diocesan Council home in Smethwick, but the Council also pays for the stay of a number of mothers in similar homes in other areas.

## DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

The authority employs seven domiciliary midwives, who undertake all the home confinements either as midwives or as maternity nurses. There are no private midwives in domiciliary practice. The work done during the past five years is as follows:—

|                        | 1948   | 1949   | 1950   | 1951   | 1952   |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of bookings ... | 677    | 598    | 496    | 500    | 508    |
| Ante-natal visits ...  | 4,089  | 3,973  | 2,975  | 2,412  | 1,888  |
| Cases attended ...     | 632    | 531    | 459    | 451    | 467    |
| Nursing visits ...     | 14,990 | 12,738 | 11,544 | 10,444 | 10,952 |

Seven sets (with two spares) of apparatus for the administration of gas and air are in use by the midwives. Gas and air analgesia was given in 314 cases during 1952.

Applications for the services of the municipal midwives are made to the Health Department, and are allocated to the appropriate midwife by the Superintendent Nursing Officer. Each midwife undertakes the ante-natal supervision of her allotted cases.

There is in Smethwick a shortage of institutional beds for the confinement of women, but a good working scheme has been adopted for the screening of patients. The problem is made easier in Smethwick because as stated above, the Obstetrics Officer to the Corporation is also consultant in charge of the maternity wards of the hospital to which the patients are admitted, and is also Medical Supervisor of Midwives. Apart from those women whom he admits for medical reasons, a number are admitted for social reasons, and on their behalf a visit is made by a health visitor and a report sent to the Obstetrics Officer giving an account of the home conditions and a recommendation as to the patient's admission to hospital or confinement at home. This works very satisfactorily.

#### DENTAL TREATMENT.

Dental Service provided under Section 22 (N.H.S. Act) for the year ending 31st December, 1952

| (a) Number provided with Dental Care |          |                   |         |                   |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Patient                              | Examined | Needing Treatment | Treated | Made Dentally fit |
| Expectant and Nursing Mothers        | 87       | 78                | 85      | 54                |
| Children under five                  | 312      | 282               | 289     | 280               |

| (b) Forms of Dental Treatment provided |             |             |         |          |                                |                           |           |        |          |         |
|----------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|--------|----------|---------|
| Patient                                | Extractions | Anæsthetics |         | Fillings | Scalings and/or Gum Treatments | Silver Nitrate Treatments | Dressings | X-Rays | Dentures |         |
|                                        |             | Local       | General |          |                                |                           |           |        | Complete | Partial |
| Expectant & Nursing Mothers            | 262         | 9           | 56      | 38       | 31                             | —                         | 12        | 9      | 26       | 20      |
| Children under five                    | 861         | —           | 260     | 14       | 17                             | 67                        | 21        | —      | —        | —       |

Mr. Hayley Goose, the Senior Dental Officer, has furnished the following report on the treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and young children during the year :—

“This year 125 sessions were devoted to the inspection and treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and to children under five. Generally speaking, the amount of work performed was similar to that in 1951 with three exceptions.

“Firstly, silver nitrate treatment was used more (67 cases) and this shows an attempt to slow down dental decay in the young children’s teeth rather than immediate resort to extraction. Often a compromise may be effected in early cases of caries of the posterior milk teeth and some extracted and the remainder painted with silver nitrate. This hardens them up somewhat, and they may last for some time afterwards without giving pain or sepsis.

“As I suggested in my last report, the number of dentures constructed this year has increased, there being 46 as compared with 12 in 1951. It is hoped, in the future year, to encourage some more of the ante-natal and post-natal patients to have conservative treatment to save their teeth rather than to lose them.

“A certain number of radiographs were taken to assist diagnosis in cases of obscure pain. These, by giving a picture of the bone of the jaws, may reveal unsuspected conditions such as fragments of root, cysts or unerupted teeth, and thus give valuable help towards planning the necessary treatment.

“For the toddlers, who needed extraction of teeth, we have been using premedication more extensively. This has been achieved by giving them some pleasantly flavoured syrup containing a barbiturate, which makes them slightly sleepy and thus less afraid of the necessary anaesthetic.

“I would like to thank, in conclusion, the staffs of the Public Health Department, Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics, in addition to my own staff, for their great help during the year.”

## **CHILD WELFARE**

### **(a) WELFARE CENTRES.**

The authority maintains six child welfare centres at which eight sessions are held weekly. Three of these centres are held in establishments owned by the authority and three in church or assembly halls.

The proximity to the town of the specialist teaching hospitals in Birmingham and the readiness with which these establishments receive our cases makes the maintenance of special clinics unnecessary.

Since the “appointed day” a number of general practitioners with large multiple practices (often including a woman doctor) have set aside one or more afternoons each week to receive mothers and children on their lists at a special consultant session.

The Medical Officer of Health would like to allocate one or more health visitors to assist general practitioners in these special child sessions, but so far shortage of staff has prevented anything being done in this direction.

Each session at the local authority's Centres is staffed by one of the Assistant Medical Officers, two nurses, and four or five voluntary workers. Every mother is interviewed separately by a nurse and the baby is weighed. In the case of first attendances, the history is recorded and is kept up-to-date on subsequent visits. All infants are examined by the doctor on the first visit and subsequently if the child's condition or progress warrants this.

The total attendances during the past five years were :—

|      |     |     | Under 1 year | 1—5 years | Total  |
|------|-----|-----|--------------|-----------|--------|
| 1948 | ... | ... | 21,755       | 3,326     | 25,081 |
| 1949 | ... | ... | 19,180       | 3,032     | 22,212 |
| 1950 | ... | ... | 17,879       | 3,766     | 21,645 |
| 1951 | ... | ... | 15,845       | 4,854     | 20,699 |
| 1952 | ... | ... | 13,491       | 5,170     | 18,661 |

  

|                                                    |              |     | 1952      | 1951        |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----------|-------------|
| Number of children attending<br>for the first time | Under 1 year | ... | 897       | 967         |
|                                                    | 1—5 years    | ... | 83        | 102         |
|                                                    |              |     | <hr/> 980 | <hr/> 1,069 |

  

|                                                       |              |     | 1952        | 1951        |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----|-------------|-------------|
| Number of children on the<br>registers at end of year | Under 1 year | ... | 755         | 774         |
|                                                       | 1—5 years    | ... | 1,215       | 1,302       |
|                                                       |              |     | <hr/> 1,970 | <hr/> 2,076 |

The number of children under one year who attended the Centres for the first time equalled 81.8 per cent of the live births in 1948, 81.5 per cent in 1949, 81.7 per cent in 1950, 83.9 per cent in 1951, and 80.0 per cent in 1952.

For about a quarter century it has been the custom in Smethwick to call up for examination, by invitation to its mother, each child on attaining the age of one year, two years, three years, and four years. These children are called to the ordinary infant welfare clinics and are given a definite time and place for attendance. They receive a comprehensive examination. This service was interrupted by the war, but has since been resumed, and is proving of great value.

## SUPPLY OF DRIED MILKS, ETC.

Facilities have been given to the Ministry of Food for the distribution of welfare foods at all the Council's infant welfare centres. Formerly clerks from the local Food Office attended each session at the centres, but in 1950, with the assistance of the Health Visitors, a panel of voluntary workers was recruited to undertake such distribution. These ladies are additional to the voluntary workers already assisting the nurses at the centres.

Since the "appointed day" the authority's arrangements for the sale of other dried milks, etc., have continued. There has been a considerable reduction in the sales of proprietary brands of dried milk, the total for 1949 being 18,742 lbs. and for 1952 7,838 lbs.

## CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

No separate provision is made for the domiciliary care of premature infants, which is undertaken during the first 14 days by the midwife in attendance, and later by the health visitor, who pays daily visits, if necessary, until the satisfactory progress of the infant is established.

Special provision is made for the conveyance of premature infants to hospital by the Borough Ambulance Service—two sets of equipment are kept at the Ambulance Station.

No difficulty is experienced in securing the immediate admission to hospital of a premature infant. The follow-up of infants discharged from hospital is arranged through the Obstetrics Officer at St. Chad's Hospital, who is also medical supervisor of midwives, and who, as a member of the staff of the Public Health Department, is in close touch with the health visitors whom he instructs.

During the year 1952 notification was received of 71 babies who weighed  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. or less at birth. Of these, 30 were born at home, two in private nursing homes, and 39 in hospital. One infant born at home died within the first 24 hours, 16 survived at the end of one month and 13 were transferred to hospital. Of those transferred, one died within the first 24 hours, one between the second and seventh day, and 11 survived at the end of one month. The two infants born in nursing homes survived. Of the infants born in hospital, five died within the first 24 hours, four between the second and seventh day, and one between the eighth and 28th day. Eleven survived at the end of one month.

Eleven premature stillbirths were notified, one of which was born at home.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

|                                         | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 |
|-----------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of cases notified ... ..         | 6    | 2    | —    | —    |
| Cases treated by health visitors ... .. | 1    | —    | —    | —    |
| Number of cases treated at Eye Hospital | 1    | 2    | —    | —    |
| Cases resulting in impaired vision ...  | —    | —    | —    | —    |
| Home visits ... ..                      | 7    | 7    | —    | —    |

Notifications during the past ten years:—

|             |    |             |    |
|-------------|----|-------------|----|
| 1943 ... .. | 8  | 1948 ... .. | 10 |
| 1944 ... .. | 9  | 1949 ... .. | 6  |
| 1945 ... .. | 8  | 1950 ... .. | 2  |
| 1946 ... .. | 16 | 1951 ... .. | —  |
| 1947 ... .. | 9  | 1952 ... .. | —  |

## HEALTH VISITING.

The Council employs a Superintendent Nursing Officer and has an establishment of 20 Health Visitors. These officers undertake duties in connection with:—

- (a) Expectant and nursing mothers.
- (b) Children from 0—5 years.
- (c) Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics.
- (d) School Medical Inspections.
- (e) Minor Ailments Clinics.
- (f) Ultra Violet Light Clinics.
- (g) Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (h) Prevention of Infectious Diseases, and advice to parents of victims.
- (i) Visitation of Aged Persons.
- (j) Home visits to T.B. patients.

The Superintendent has control of all the Council's nursing staff, including the domiciliary midwives.

Shortage of staff, which at the end of 1952 had become acute, has reduced the activity of this branch of our work. In 1948 only 13 Health Visitors were employed. In each succeeding year two student Health Visitors were appointed and received training in association with the Birmingham Public Health Department (and two other local authorities). Each agreed to give two years' service after qualifying, but resignations and retirements have been so numerous that on 31st December, 1952, the staff was reduced to six with one clinic nurse. There is one student in training and it is hoped to appoint two others during the present year.

The number of visits paid by the Health Visitors during the past five years is as follows:—

|                                     |     |     | 1948  | 1949  | 1950   | 1951   | 1952   |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| To Expectant and Nursing Mothers:   |     |     |       |       |        |        |        |
| First Visits                        | ... | ... | 452   | 218   | 413    | 434    | 325    |
| Total Visits                        | ... | ... | 681   | 301   | 561    | 688    | 587    |
| To Children under one year of age:  |     |     |       |       |        |        |        |
| First Visits                        | ... | ... | 1,372 | 1,259 | 1,173  | 1,099  | 1,093  |
| Total Visits                        | ... | ... | 4,567 | 4,015 | 7,913  | 8,536  | 7,549  |
| To Children aged one to five years: |     |     |       |       |        |        |        |
| First Visits                        | ... | ... | 1,476 | 2,183 | 2,029  | 1,376  | 1,050  |
| Total Visits                        | ... | ... | 8,752 | 9,491 | 14,568 | 13,701 | 10,527 |
| To Other Classes:                   |     |     |       |       |        |        |        |
| First Visits                        | ... | ... | 304   | 586   | 1,714  | 1,574  | 992    |
| Total Visits                        | ... | ... | 1,017 | 1,303 | 2,754  | 3,323  | 2,416  |

#### DAY NURSERIES.

The Council now have two day nurseries in the town with accommodation for 49 and 35 respectively, a total of 84 places. Both are approved as training nurseries. During the past year admission has been restricted to the priority classes, namely:—

1. Where there is no father and the mother must work to support her child. This includes the children of unmarried mothers.
2. Where the father or the mother of the child is seriously ill and confined to bed, either temporarily or permanently whether in hospital or at home.
3. Where the mother is expecting a baby and is due to go into hospital. Consideration will also be given to the temporary admission of children if the mother is confined at home.
4. Where the housing conditions of the family are so bad that normal home life is impossible.

Within the last few months the charges to mothers have been increased, and this has resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of attendances. The Council's scale of charges, however, allows for the re-assessment of hard cases, and no child who really

needs day nursery care is excluded merely because the parents cannot afford to pay the charges.

The total attendances during the year 1952 show a substantial decrease at 18,913, a daily average (excluding Saturdays) of 76, compared with 26,413 an average of 110 in 1951, and 28,793, an average of 114 in 1950. The number of individual children on the registers at the end of the year was 59; 10 under two years of age and 49 between two and five years.

| Nursery            | No. of<br>Places | Total<br>attend-<br>ances<br>1952 | Average<br>daily<br>attend-<br>ances | Total<br>attend-<br>ances<br>1951 | Average<br>daily<br>attend-<br>ances |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Brasshouse Lane .. | —                | —                                 | —                                    | 7,541                             | 36                                   |
| Edgbaston Road ... | 49               | 11,413                            | 46                                   | 11,498                            | 46                                   |
| Norman Road ...    | 35               | 7,500                             | 30                                   | 7,464                             | 30                                   |
|                    | —                | —                                 | —                                    | —                                 | —                                    |
|                    | 84               | 18,913                            | 76                                   | 26,413                            | 110                                  |
|                    | —                | —                                 | —                                    | —                                 | —                                    |

#### "THE HOLLIES."

This home for children opened in 1938 on the Firs Estate, Coopers Lane, Smethwick, combines prevention, care and after-care. Children from one to 12 years of age are received, especially those who are pre-disposed to disease and those convalescing after hospital treatment.

The home has 30 beds, and is staffed by a Matron, Sister, one trained and four untrained nurses. Those children of school age who are fit to attend school, go to the Firs Open Air School adjoining "The Hollies," but take their meals and sleep in the home.

Children are usually referred by the medical officers at the clinics or direct from the various hospitals serving the area; recommendations from general practitioners are also received and welcomed. The period of stay varies from 13 weeks to six months, but exceptional children are kept for longer periods.

Originally the home was intended to care for the rheumatic and malnourished child, but the general improvement in child health has reduced the numbers in this category and the intake has been broadened to include all types of weakly children. In the main, children admitted come within one of three categories, i.e., rheumatic, asthmatic and early tuberculous

Details of admission and discharges during the year 1952 are shown below : —

| Condition                                                | In-Patients<br>1/1/52 | Admitted               |               | Discharged             |               | Re-<br>main-<br>ing<br>31/12/52 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
|                                                          |                       | Under<br>School<br>Age | School<br>Age | Under<br>School<br>Age | School<br>Age |                                 |
| Asthma .....                                             | —                     | 1                      | 1             | —                      | —             | 2                               |
| Chorea .....                                             | 1                     | —                      | 3             | —                      | 4             | —                               |
| Convalescence .....                                      | —                     | —                      | 1             | —                      | —             | 1                               |
| Debility .....                                           | 4                     | 2                      | 2             | 1                      | 5             | 2                               |
| Heart Disease .....                                      | —                     | —                      | 2             | —                      | 2             | —                               |
| Malnutrition .....                                       | —                     | 1                      | 1             | —                      | 1             | 1                               |
| Post-operative .....                                     | —                     | —                      | 1             | —                      | 1             | —                               |
| Pre-tuberculosis ...                                     | 8                     | 2                      | 8             | 3                      | 10            | 5                               |
| Rheumatism .....                                         | —                     | —                      | 2             | —                      | 1             | 1                               |
| Others .....                                             | 1                     | 1                      | 2             | 1                      | 2             | 1                               |
| Cases admitted on<br>behalf of Chil-<br>dren's Committee | 8                     | 30                     | 12            | 31                     | 9             | 10                              |
| Other authorities ...                                    | 3                     | —                      | 11            | —                      | 11            | 3                               |
|                                                          | —                     | —                      | —             | —                      | —             | —                               |
|                                                          | 25                    | 37                     | 46            | 36                     | 46            | 26                              |
|                                                          | —                     | —                      | —             | —                      | —             | —                               |

Residence in "The Hollies" represented 10,010 patient days during the year, a daily average of 27.4, compared with 9,350 patient days, a daily average of 25.6, in the previous year, and 8,917 patient days, a daily average of 24.4, in 1950.

## CARE OF CHILDREN.

Miss M. J. Abbott, the Children's Officer, has kindly supplied the following report on the work of her Committee on behalf of the children under their care :—

During the year 1952 the number of children taken under care by the Children's Committee has been 84. The children have come under care for a variety of reasons, the chief amongst them being the absence of the mother from the family circle, due, in most cases, to admission to hospital, but in some cases to desertion.

The Children's Department learns of children in need either from the parents themselves or from doctors, other departments of the local authority, or such voluntary organisations as the N.S.P.C.C. In addition to the mother's absence from the family, deprivation is caused by the breaking up of family life owing to disharmony between the parents, by homelessness, or by the inability of the unmarried mother to care for her child.

Children are also committed to the care of the local authority through the Juvenile Court, either by reason of neglect by the parents, or because of their own misdeeds.

It is not at all easy, upon first making acquaintance with a child and his family, to determine whether his need is simply temporary or likely to be permanent. During the past year actually 75 per cent of the children coming under care proved to be only in temporary need, and were able to return to their parents after a few weeks. It is important to determine, as soon as possible, if a child needs permanent care so that at the beginning the best plans can be made for his or her future. Difficulties with unreliable parents have to be overcome in some of these cases.

Following is a table of the total number of children under care.

|                                                                   | Dec.<br>1950 | Dec.<br>1951 | Dec.<br>1952 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Children deserted by their parents ...                            | 10           | 8            | 16           |
| Children who are part of homeless families                        | 19           | 34           | 31           |
| Children whose parents are incapable of<br>caring for them ... .. | 30           | 34           | 26           |
| Children whose parents are ill ... ..                             | 13           | 6            | 7            |
| Children whose parents are dead ...                               | 11           | 12           | 14           |
| Children who come from unsatisfactory<br>homes ... ..             | 9            | 2            | 5            |

Children committed to the care of the local authority:—

|                                                         | Dec.<br>1950 | Dec.<br>1951 | Dec.<br>1952 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Committed because of neglect by parents                 | 18           | 24           | 21           |
| Committed because of unsatisfactory<br>behaviour ... .. | 6            | 12           | 13           |

#### TEMPORARY CARE.

It has been possible, owing to the ready willingness of our excellent foster-parents, to board out 30 children for temporary periods during the year. Seventeen of these were children under the age of three, and it is considered that in the surroundings of an ordinary domestic household, such young children settle down much more happily than they would in the best of institutions. Boarding-out is also less costly than institutional care. Foster-parents have encouraged backward children to walk and talk, so that their real parents have been delighted at their progress, and have even persevered and overcome such difficulties as feeding a very young baby suffering from a hare-lip and cleft palate.

In the emergencies which arise concerning family troubles, plans cannot always be made for the children in advance, and thus it not infrequently happens that a foster home has to be made ready, food and sometimes clothing supplied, and arrangements for the statutory pre-boarding-out medical inspection made, immediately.

Foster-homes are not always available, and some children are not fit to be boarded-out. Most valuable help has been given by the Health Committee in allowing children, under these circumstances, to be cared for at "The Hollies." During the year 27 children have been admitted, the average number per week under the care of the Children's Committee being 12. These children have greatly benefited by the care they have received, and in some cases of a more permanent nature, health has been so much improved and behaviour difficulties overcome so well that successful boarding-out has ultimately become possible.

Parents, to whom children will return, see them at least once a month. It should also be stated that parents are encouraged to make their own arrangements for the care of their children with relations or friends whenever possible. Experience has proved, however, that in the great majority of cases parents do not apply for help unless they really need it. Often arrangements made previously with relations have broken down, to the detriment of both the children and the anxious parents.

#### PERMANENT CARE.

Permanent care may be said to start with freeing the child from the entanglements of bad parents, or rescuing him from forces which would drag him down. It aims at raising him from being unwanted to being loved. It can end happily in establishing him in a secure home, in a good job, in the Forces, or in marriage.

Having determined that a child is in need of permanent care, every effort is made to fit him into a happy family circle. If he is a healthy, stable child, and the parents' consent can either be obtained or dispensed with, he is placed for adoption.

During 1952 eight children were thus placed. Help is given to the adoptive parents in obtaining the consent from the real parents, and taking them before a Justice of the Peace for the Consent Form to be duly signed. This is sometimes a delicate operation, and it is feared, if left to the adoptive parents themselves to complete, would often lead to delay and frustration.

In the majority of cases, however, outright adoption is not possible, but foster-homes provide a very good second best. With

encouragement and practical advice, foster-parents manage to overcome the behaviour difficulties, which naturally afflict children who have suffered from deprivation. The fact that they are not the real parents of the children does make their task a very difficult one. In order that the child may not only thrive, but learn to be obedient, honest and of good habits, discipline as well as love is necessary. Foster-parents find the exercise of discipline through love difficult to maintain without constant reassurance and encouragement. The placing is in danger of failing unless the morale of the foster-parent is sustained.

In fairness to the foster-parents, no less than to the children, it is necessary to clarify the position of the real parents in every case. No pains are spared to seek out the true facts concerning bad parents, without delay, so that the local authority can take over full parental rights in respect of the child under the Children Act, and thus safeguard his future. It can often be brought home to the parents that it is their duty to surrender parental rights in the interest of the child without resorting to legal action. This may involve seeking for the parents, and certainly means striving to gain their co-operation. The expert advice of the Town Clerk's Department is invaluable in these cases, and very much appreciated.

When, because of serious behaviour difficulties or physical or mental disability, children cannot be boarded-out, accommodation is found for them in Homes. Most valuable help has been afforded in this respect by Dr. Barnardo's Homes and the Diocesan Training Homes.

It is interesting to note that children, even if coming under the provisions of the Mental Deficiency or Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, can still enjoy the parental care of the local authority under the Children Act, 1948. If, therefore, the need arises to protect not only the child or young person from his or her own actions, but the general public as well, resort to these Acts can be viewed as specialist treatment within the framework of parental care.

In cases where it appears to be probable that children will ultimately return to their parents, two courses of action are possible. Some public-spirited foster-parents are found who are willing to care for children, become fond of them, and yet face up to their departure. In most cases, however, it is necessary to find accommodation for these children in Homes. Thanks are due to the Wolverhampton Children's Committee for co-operating in admitting children to the Cottage Homes.

The following is a table of the different types of accommodation provided :—

|                                       | Dec.<br>1950 | Dec.<br>1951 | Dec.<br>1952 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Children boarded-out ... ..           | 61           | 72           | 76           |
| Children in Local Authority Homes ... | 33           | 36           | 32           |
| Children in Voluntary Homes ... ..    | 22           | 15           | 17           |
| Children in Special Schools ... ..    | —            | 6            | 5            |
| Children in Mental Hospitals ... ..   | —            | 3            | 3            |

#### “THE TOWERS” CHILDREN’S HOME.

Smethwick’s own Children’s Home, “The Towers,” Sandwell Road, Handsworth, has accommodated an average number of 16 children during 1952. Most of the children have been at the Home since it opened in July, 1951. A happy, homely atmosphere is found at “The Towers,” and the steady affection of the foster-parents is reflected in the improved behaviour and progress of the children.

The children live as normal a life as possible, going out to school and joining in Church activities and youth organisations. During the summer holiday they spent two weeks at a camp in North Wales with the foster-parents, which they very much enjoyed.

#### JUVENILE COURT.

Reports on home circumstances and school reports which were prepared with the co-operation of the Education Department have been presented to the Juvenile Court Magistrates on 145 cases during the 12 months ended December, 1952.

As a result of the cases which came before the Juvenile Court during the year 1952, 12 children were discharged, one committed to the care of the local authority, 59 fined, 39 placed on probation, one committed for 28 days’ detention in a Remand Home, 23 ordered to report to the Home Office Attendance Centre, one sent to the Detention Centre at Kidlington (the new Home Office short-term Approved School), and nine committed to Approved Schools.

It will be observed that reporting to the Attendance Centre has almost completely taken the place of detention in Remand Homes. This consists of weekly attendance for a stated number of hours, at a Centre where short, sharp training is carried out. In Smethwick the Centre is held at the Police Station.

The Children's Department very much appreciate the valuable help given to them by the Court officials, Probation Officers and the Police, and the interest taken by the Juvenile Court Magistrates, who show a keen desire to acquaint themselves fully with reports on the progress of children committed to Approved Schools. At present 21 children are at Approved Schools and 12 are supervised during after-care.

#### APPROVED SCHOOL AFTER-CARE.

Owing to the re-organisation of the area covered by the Home Office Welfare Officer, Approved School after-care work in Smethwick has now been undertaken by the Children's Committee. This means that a continuous interest is taken in the child, starting with the pre-Court enquiries. Close contact is maintained with the home whilst the child is still at school in order to advise upon the granting of home leave. As the time for leaving school approaches, the home conditions are again reported upon, and if all is satisfactory, the child returns to his parents. It is the task of the Deputy Children's Officer, who carries out this work, to act as a local friend, keeping in touch with the child and giving such help as may be needed. These points are stressed as the amount of money spent on maintaining boys and girls in approved schools is wasted if they failed to respond to normal life on release. The first two or three years after leaving such schools are likely to provide the severest test of the success of approved school training.

#### PARENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

Parents are required by law to contribute to the maintenance of children taken under care or committed to Approved Schools, until the child attains the age of 16. A reasonable scale of assessment is operated, and facilities are also available for obtaining Court Orders to enforce payment of contributions when the necessity arises. The average contribution per child per week during the year ended December, 1952, was 3s. 10d., which remains one of the highest in the Midland area. It should be borne in mind that this average takes account of a number of orphans and other children whose parents are in circumstances which do not render them liable to contribute at all.

The Children's Committee has the opportunity of giving a new lease of life to many children. The work involved necessarily includes setbacks and disappointments, dealing as it does with

human nature. I am glad to express my thanks to the Chairman for her unfailing support and encouragement through many difficulties, and to the members of the Committee for their wise understanding.

M. J. ABBOTT.

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## OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

### MENTAL HEALTH.

The administration of Sections 28 and 51 of the National Health Service Act is the responsibility of the Mental Health Sub-Committee, which consists of all members of the Health Committee together with one co-opted member, the Head Teacher of the local school for educationally sub-normal children. Three of the Council's four Medical Officers possess the Certificate of the University of London qualifying them to examine children under the Education Act of 1944, and most of this work is carried out by the Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health (male) and one lady Medical Officer. Owing to the smallness of the town and the difficulties in obtaining suitable staff, the Department has had to work from hand to mouth since 1948 in the matter of supervision and care of persons of unsound mind and of the mentally defective. There is no psychiatric social worker on the staff of the Department, but one Health Visitor has undergone a special course of training in mental health. The Duly Authorised Officer assists in the visitation of persons discharged from mental hospital and of certain of the mental defectives. The Mental Health Sub-Committee has in its employment a lady who is Supervisor of the Occupation Centre, and who is also responsible for the supervision, care and home guidance of these mental defective persons who are incapable of receiving benefit from education in a special school.

The appointment of Duly Authorised Officer is a joint one with the County Borough of West Bromwich. Each town has appointed a deputy.

The number of discharges from mental hospitals during the year was 77; of these, 30 accepted after-care, 12 declined after-care, and 11 did not reply to our invitation. Eleven returned to hospital for further treatment and three left the area. During the year 297 visits were made by the department's officers.

The following table gives details of the admission and discharges of mental patients during the year:—

| Hospital                                   | No. of<br>Patients<br>29/12/51 | Admissions |           | Deaths | Discharges | No. of<br>Patients<br>29/12/52 |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------|------------|--------------------------------|
|                                            |                                | Certified  | Voluntary |        |            |                                |
| St. Matthew's,<br>Burntwood                | 184                            | 1          | 1         | 8      | 4          | 174                            |
| Winson Green,<br>Birmingham                | 4                              | 1          | 8         | —      | 10         | 3                              |
| St. Edward's,<br>Cheddleton                | 9                              | —          | —         | —      | —          | 9                              |
| Highcroft Hall,<br>Birmingham              | 69                             | 44         | 31        | 11     | 54         | 79                             |
| St. George's, Stafford                     | 1                              | —          | —         | —      | —          | 1                              |
| Burghill, Hereford ..                      | 10                             | —          | —         | —      | —          | 10                             |
| Goodmayes, Essex ..                        | 5                              | —          | —         | —      | —          | 5                              |
| Park Prewett, Basing-<br>stoke, Hants. ... | 1                              | —          | —         | —      | —          | 1                              |
| St. Cadoc's, Caerlŷn,<br>Mon.              | 1                              | —          | —         | —      | —          | 1                              |
| Broadgate, Beverley                        | 1                              | —          | —         | —      | —          | 1                              |
| Rubery, B'ham .....                        | 1                              | —          | 3         | —      | 3          | 1                              |
| Hollymoor, B'ham .                         | 5                              | —          | 4         | —      | 6          | 3                              |
|                                            | —                              | —          | —         | —      | —          | —                              |
|                                            | 291                            | 46         | 47        | 19     | 77         | 288                            |
|                                            | —                              | —          | —         | —      | —          | —                              |

# MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938.

The following is an extract from the Return of Mental defectives as on 1st January, 1953:—

## 1. PARTICULARS OF CASES REPORTED DURING 1952.

(a) Cases at 31st December ascertained to be defective "subject to be dealt with."

Action taken on reports by—

(i) Local Education Authorities on children—

(1) While at school or liable to attend school ...

(2) On leaving special schools ...

(3) On leaving ordinary schools ...

(ii) Police or by Courts ...

(iii) Other sources ...

(b) Cases reported but not regarded at 31st December as defectives "subject to be dealt with" on any ground ...

(c) Cases reported but not confirmed as defectives by 31st December and thus excluded from (a) and (b) ...

Total number of cases reported during the year ...

|                                                                                                                 | During 1952  |                  | Totals as at      |                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                                                                                 | Under age 16 | Aged 16 and over | 1st January, 1953 | Under age 16 and over |
|                                                                                                                 | M.           | F.               | M.                | F.                    |
| (1) While at school or liable to attend school ...                                                              | 8            | 4                | —                 | —                     |
| (2) On leaving special schools ...                                                                              | —            | —                | —                 | —                     |
| (3) On leaving ordinary schools ...                                                                             | —            | —                | —                 | —                     |
| (ii) Police or by Courts ...                                                                                    | —            | —                | —                 | —                     |
| (iii) Other sources ...                                                                                         | —            | —                | —                 | —                     |
| (b) Cases reported but not regarded at 31st December as defectives "subject to be dealt with" on any ground ... | —            | —                | —                 | —                     |
| (c) Cases reported but not confirmed as defectives by 31st December and thus excluded from (a) and (b) ...      | —            | —                | —                 | —                     |
| Total number of cases reported during the year ...                                                              | 8            | 4                | 9                 | 4                     |

## 2. DISPOSAL OF CASES.

(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number—

(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision ...

(ii) Placed under Guardianship ...

(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety" ...

(iv) Admitted to Institutions ...

|                                            | 7 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 17 | 7 | 80 | 57 |
|--------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|----|
| (i) Placed under Statutory Supervision ... | — | — | — | — | —  | — | 4  | 8  |
| (ii) Placed under Guardianship ...         | — | — | — | — | —  | — | —  | —  |
| (iii) Taken to "Places of Safety" ...      | — | — | — | — | —  | — | —  | —  |
| (iv) Admitted to Institutions ...          | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 9  | 5 | 48 | 46 |

|                     |  | Totals as at      |    |             |    |              |    |                  |     |              |    |                  |    |    |    |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|----|-------------|----|--------------|----|------------------|-----|--------------|----|------------------|----|----|----|
|                     |  | 1st January, 1953 |    | During 1952 |    | Under age 16 |    | Aged 16 and over |     | Under age 16 |    | Aged 16 and over |    |    |    |
|                     |  | M.                | F. | M.          | F. | M.           | F. | M.               | F.  | M.           | F. | M.               | F. | M. | F. |
|                     |  | —                 | —  | —           | —  | —            | —  | —                | —   | —            | —  | —                | —  | 24 | 14 |
|                     |  | —                 | —  | —           | —  | —            | —  | —                | —   | —            | —  | —                | —  | —  | —  |
| TOTAL of Item 2 ... |  | 8                 | 4  | 9           | 4  | 26           | 12 | 156              | 125 |              |    |                  |    |    |    |

(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number—

- (i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision ... ..
- (ii) Action unnecessary ... ..

TOTAL of Item 2 ... ..

### 3 CLASSIFICATION OF DEFECTIVES IN THE COMMUNITY ON I.I.53.

(a) Cases included in Item 2 (a) (i) to (iii) above in need of institutional care :—

(1) In urgent need of institutional care :—

- (i) "cot and chair" cases ... ..
- (ii) ambulant low grade cases... ..
- (iii) medium grade cases ... ..
- (iv) high grade cases ... ..

## (2) Not in urgent need of institutional care:—

|                                  | During 1952        |                        | Totals as at                            |                        |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                  | Under age 16<br>M. | Aged 16 and over<br>F. | 1st January, 1953<br>Under age 16<br>M. | Aged 16 and over<br>F. |
| (i) "cot and chair" cases ...    | —                  | —                      | —                                       | —                      |
| (ii) ambulant low grade cases... | —                  | —                      | —                                       | —                      |
| (iii) medium grade cases ...     | —                  | —                      | 3                                       | —                      |
| (iv) high grade cases ...        | —                  | —                      | —                                       | —                      |
| TOTAL of Item 3 (a) ...          | —                  | —                      | 5                                       | —                      |

## (b) Of the cases included in items 2 (a) (i) and (ii) and 2 (b) (i) overleaf, number considered suitable for:—

|                            | Under age 16<br>M. | Aged 16 and over<br>F. | Aged 16 and over<br>M. | Aged 16 and over<br>F. |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| (i) occupation centre ...  | 15                 | 6                      | 7                      | 17                     |
| (ii) industrial centre ... | —                  | —                      | —                      | —                      |
| (iii) home training ...    | —                  | —                      | —                      | —                      |
| TOTAL of Item 3 (b) ...    | 15                 | 6                      | 7                      | 17                     |

## (c) Of the cases included in item 3 (b) number receiving training on I.I.53:—

|                            | I4 | 4 | 3 | I2 |
|----------------------------|----|---|---|----|
| (i) occupation centre ...  | —  | — | — | —  |
| (ii) industrial centre ... | —  | — | — | —  |
| (iii) at home ...          | —  | — | — | —  |
| TOTAL of Item 3 (b) ...    | 14 | 4 | 3 | 12 |

4. Number of Mental Defectives who were in Institutions, under Community Care (including Voluntary Supervision) or "Places of Safety," on 1st January, 1952, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1952.

|                                                   | M. | F. | T. |
|---------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| (a) Ceased to be under care...                    | 32 | 31 | 63 |
| (b) Died, removed from area, or lost sight of ... | 2  | 3  | 5  |
| TOTAL                                             | 34 | 34 | 68 |

5. Of the total number of mental defectives under Supervision or Guardianship or no longer under care.

|                                                                         | Males | Females |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|-----|
| (a) Number who have given birth to children while unmarried during 1952 | ...   | ...     | Nil |
| (b) Number who have married during 1952                                 | 2     | 2       |     |

The Occupation Centre which was opened on 7th January, 1952, is held daily both morning and afternoon at the Cape Clinic and is steadily gaining in popularity. The number of persons at present on the roll is 35 and the average attendance for the past four weeks has been 18.

## AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Council had a complete and adequate ambulance service prior to the "appointed day," and this has continued during the past four-and-a-half years. The Council's policy of periodic replacement of vehicles has been implemented by the purchase of five new ambulances and one sitting-case car during the period and the addition of one sitting-case car to the fleet, which now comprises six ambulances and two sitting-case cars:—

| Make     | H.P. | Type       | Capacity     | Year |
|----------|------|------------|--------------|------|
| Morris   | 25   | Coachbuilt | 2 stretchers | 1939 |
| Austin   | 16   | Coachbuilt | 2 stretchers | 1948 |
| Austin   | 16   | Coachbuilt | 2 stretchers | 1949 |
| Daimler  | 27   | Coachbuilt | 2 stretchers | 1949 |
| Daimler  | 27   | Coachbuilt | 2 stretchers | 1950 |
| Morris   | 28.5 | Coachbuilt | 2 stretchers | 1952 |
| Austin   | 16   | Utility    | 3 seats      | 1949 |
| Standard | 16   | Saloon     | 3 seats      | 1950 |

A Morris 5-cwt. van is available for maintenance purposes.

The whole-time staff comprises an Ambulance Officer, Assistant Ambulance Officer, nine drivers and attendants, three whole-time and one part-time telephonists, and necessary domestic staff.

The service is manned by the paid staff from 6.30 a.m. until 7.30 p.m. During the night and at week-ends the vehicles are manned by volunteer drivers and attendants who are members of the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade; these volunteers are most punctual and regular in their attendance, and the standard of their service is exceptionally high.

The following table gives details of the work of the Ambulance Service during the year 1952:—

|                          | Sitting<br>case cars | Ambulances | Total<br>1952 | Total<br>1948 |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Number of journeys ..... | 2,580                | 5,344      | 7,924         | 5,652         |
| Patients carried .....   | 4,624                | 18,713     | 23,337        | 11,340        |
| Miles travelled .....    | 29,920               | 58,298     | 88,218        | 70,118        |
| Motor spirit consumed... | 1,931                | 5,742      | 7,673         | 6,675         |

The figures for 1948 are not strictly comparable as regards journeys and patients owing to the different method of computation adopted following the issue of Ministry of Health Circular 25/51 dated 18th June, 1951.

## HOME NURSING.

The Council took over the staff of the former Smethwick District Nursing Association and have continued the service from the Edward Cheshire Nurses' Home in Bearwood Road. One of the senior health visitors was seconded to supervise the service, but a permanent appointment was eventually made of an officer to take charge of the Home Nursing and Domestic Help Services. This joint appointment to two related services has proved of great value.

At the end of 1952 four whole-time and two part-time nurses were employed; at the time of writing this report one vacancy has been filled and additional nurses will be appointed when possible.

Applications for the services of a home nurse are normally made through the general practitioners with whom there is complete co-operation. Notifications of the discharge of patients from hospitals serving the area are transmitted to the Medical Officer of Health, and requests for the assistance of a home nurse are met immediately. There is no regular night service of nurses; night attendants are provided in certain cases through the Domestic Help Service.

Details of the work done since the "appointed day" are as follows:—

|                                               | July to Dec. |        |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                               | 1948         | 1949   | 1950   | 1951   | 1952   |
| New patients .....                            | 254          | 599    | 583    | 641    | 732    |
| Recovered or transferred<br>to hospital ..... | 195          | 454    | 460    | 510    | 598    |
| Died .....                                    | 44           | 124    | 115    | 108    | 131    |
| Remaining at end of year                      | 46           | 67     | 75     | 98     | 101    |
| Visits paid during year ...                   | 4,633        | 13,086 | 13,593 | 13,999 | 17,245 |

No arrangements exist for district nurse training. The value of refresher courses is appreciated, but as the service is always fully extended, it has not hitherto been possible to release staff to attend.

## DOMESTIC HELP.

The service of home helps in existence before the "appointed day" was almost entirely confined to maternity cases. Owing to the highly industrial nature of the area and the competing demands of industry for female labour, the Council experienced great difficulty in building up an adequate service, and at the beginning of 1948 only one domestic help was employed. At the end of that year the

position was a little better, and we had five whole-time and three part-time helpers. During the year 1948, 45 families were assisted.

An improved wage rate and better working conditions, such as the provision of overalls, payment of travelling expenses, and payment for meal-time gave a stimulus to recruiting, and at the end of 1952 the panel consisted of 21 whole-time and 31 part-time helpers.

The number of families assisted during the last four years and the conditions of the patient concerned is as follows:—

|                                | 1949      | 1950      | 1951      | 1952      |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Confinement .....              | 29        | 33        | 34        | 53        |
| Tuberculosis .....             | 6         | 4         | 5         | 5         |
| Old age and infirmity .....    | 16        | 35        | 50        | 63        |
| Post-operative .....           | 7         | 8         | 9         | 14        |
| Heart disease .....            | 12        | 14        | 13        | 27        |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c. .... | 6         | 13        | 19        | 17        |
| Respiratory diseases .....     | 6         | 6         | 13        | 17        |
| Cancer .....                   | 3         | 1         | 4         | 8         |
| Arthritis .....                | 7         | 11        | 17        | 20        |
| Injuries .....                 | 5         | 3         | 4         | 10        |
| Others .....                   | 15        | 9         | 15        | 9         |
|                                | <hr/> 112 | <hr/> 137 | <hr/> 183 | <hr/> 243 |

At the outset, one of the senior health visitors was seconded for duties as Supervisor of Domestic Helps and Superintendent of the Home Nursing Service, and on her resignation to take a more senior post a special joint appointment was made. The officer holding this post is qualified S.R.N., S.C.M., and H.V. Cert. Cases needing help are referred by local practitioners, and the nurses and midwives employed by the authority.

The domestic helps are paid the agreed rate (at present 2/3<sup>3</sup>d. per hour), and the Council operates a scale of recovery from the families assisted. Where individual cases of hardship are met with, the Health Committee make appropriate reductions in these charges.

There are no special facilities for training domestic helpers. Great care is taken in the selection of suitable women; all those

employed have had considerable experience in running a home, with children; very careful supervision of new recruits is given during their first few weeks' employment.

## CHIROPODY SERVICE.

For many years prior to the "appointed day," the Birmingham General Dispensary at their Smethwick Branch provided a service staffed by two trained chiropodists—one male and one female—and when the dispensary premises were purchased by the Council permission was sought from the Ministry of Health to continue the service under Section 28 of the 1946 Act. An amendment to the Council's scheme was approved by the Minister on 9th July, 1948.

The attendances since the "appointed day" have been as follows:—

|                                        | 6 months |       |       |       |        |
|----------------------------------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
|                                        | 1948     | 1949  | 1950  | 1951  | 1952   |
| Children under five years of age ..... |          | 7     | 12    | 6     | 15     |
| Children of school age .....           |          | 303   | 419   | 218   | 233    |
| Expectant and nursing mothers .....    |          | 14    | 7     | 1     | 9      |
| Other patients:                        |          |       |       |       |        |
| Male .....                             |          | 844   | 1,094 | 1,149 | 1,472  |
| Female .....                           |          | 4,799 | 6,514 | 6,496 | 9,241  |
| Total                                  | 3,889    | 6,007 | 8,046 | 7,870 | 10,970 |

The individual patients attending during 1952 numbered 1,356 and comprised:—

|                                      |     |       |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Children under five years of age ... | ... | 5     |
| Children of school age ...           | ... | 63    |
| Expectant and nursing mothers ...    | ... | 9     |
| Other patients: Male ...             | ... | 206   |
| Female ...                           | ... | 1,073 |

The majority of the "other patients" were persons over 65 years of age. Attention to their feet in order to enable them to get about is an important contribution to the health, happiness and well-being of these old folk.

## CONVALESCENT TREATMENT.

Convalescent treatment was provided during the year for 42 patients on the recommendation of the hospital or family doctor, as under:—

| Condition of Patient             | Men | Women | Children | Total |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------|----------|-------|
| Post Operative ... ..            | 4   | 8     | 1        | 13    |
| Debility ... ..                  | 1   | 1     | —        | 2     |
| Following Respiratory Infections | 4   | 7     | —        | 11    |
| Nervous Disorders ... ..         | 1   | 7     | —        | 8     |
| Hypertension ... ..              | —   | 1     | —        | 1     |
| Rheumatism ... ..                | —   | 1     | —        | 1     |
| Fibrositis ... ..                | —   | 1     | —        | 1     |
| Arthritis ... ..                 | —   | 2     | —        | 2     |
| Anaemia ... ..                   | 1   | —     | —        | 1     |
| Cystitis ... ..                  | —   | 1     | —        | 1     |
| Varicose ulcers ... ..           | —   | 1     | —        | 1     |
|                                  | —   | —     | —        | —     |
|                                  | 11  | 30    | 1        | 42    |
|                                  | —   | —     | —        | —     |

The undermentioned homes were used, the normal period of stay being two weeks:—

|                                           |         |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|
| Gable House, Droitwich ... ..             | 5 cases |
| Clevedon—"The Belmont" Home for Women ... | 15 "    |
| "The Victoria" Home for Men ...           | 4 "     |
| Llandudno Convalescent Home ... ..        | 4 "     |
| Rest Haven, Exmouth ... ..                | 1 "     |
| St. Luke's Home, Exmouth ... ..           | 3 "     |
| Wordsworth Home of Rest, Swanage ... ..   | 1 "     |
| Essex Convalescent Home, Clacton ... ..   | 3 "     |
| "The Rest," Porthcawl ... ..              | 1 "     |
| "Dans Heath," Thundersley, Essex ... ..   | 1 "     |
| "Rustington," Littlehampton ... ..        | 1 "     |
| "Cowdray Lodge," Weston-Super-Mare ... .. | 1 "     |
| Bell Memorial Home, Lancing ... ..        | 1 "     |
| "The Hermitage," Utttoxeter ... ..        | 1 "     |
|                                           | —       |
|                                           | 42      |
|                                           | —       |

## LOAN OF SICK-ROOM EQUIPMENT.

In accordance with the Council's scheme under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, sick-room equipment is available for needy cases from a store maintained at the Edward Cheshire Nurses' Home, Bearwood Road. Issues were made during the year to 305 persons, 435 articles being loaned as under:—

|                      |     |     |     |     |     |                 |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| Air Beds             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4               |
| Air Rings            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 66              |
| Bed Cradles          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10              |
| Bed Pans             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 105             |
| Bed Rests            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 52              |
| Bed Tables           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1               |
| Beds, Hospital       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5               |
| Blankets             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5               |
| Breast Pumps         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3               |
| Commodes             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3               |
| Crutches             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1               |
| Dunlop Rings         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13              |
| Feeding Cups         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9               |
| Invalid Wheel Chairs | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18              |
| Mackintosh Sheeting  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 68              |
| Mattresses           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6               |
| Pyjamas              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4               |
| Sheets               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12              |
| Sputum Mugs          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3               |
| Urinals              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 47              |
|                      |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/> 435 <hr/> |

## WELFARE SERVICES

The administration of the Council's Schemes under Sections 21, 29 and 30 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, is generally the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health, and the work is carried out by Officers of the Public Health Department, integrated wherever possible with their duties under the Council's proposals for the administration of services under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

### RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR AGED AND INFIRM PERSONS.

On the "appointed day" there was no accommodation provided by the Council, there being no existing Poor Law Institution within the Borough. Arrangements existed, however, with the County Borough of Wolverhampton for the reception of Smethwick residents in the "Poplars" and "Bromley House" to a maximum of seventy, and with the County Borough of Walsall for a small number to be received at "Beacon Lodge." These arrangements have been continued, and individual cases have been admitted from time to time to accommodation provided by the City of Birmingham and other local Authorities.

A large house known as "Hill Crest," in Little Moor Hill, Smethwick (the generous gift of Mr. Arthur Mitchell) which had been used for some little time as a home for aged persons, was taken over with the consent of the Minister of Health for the purposes of Section 21 of the Act, and plans were prepared for an extension to give accommodation for twelve additional residents.

The new building was completed and furnished early in 1952 and is now occupied; those residents in the old house who desired to move being accommodated in the extension. The present accommodation at "Hill Crest" provides for 28 residents. There is ample dining room and a large lounge on the ground floor of the old house. The kitchen equipment has been augmented and a servery provided. There are residential quarters for the matron and her assistant. The premises are centrally heated by a low pressure hot water system. There is a large garden with spacious lawns, and a kitchen garden. The house is situated in a quiet residential district.

The Council also purchased a large house in Park Hill, Moseley, Birmingham, in September, 1949, and converted it into a home for nineteen aged persons of both sexes. Fortunately the amount of structural alteration was not large, consisting mainly of the provision of additional baths and sanitary accommodation with additions to

the cooking facilities. There is a large and very pleasant garden. The house was in excellent condition, and the purchase of existing carpets, curtains and other fittings facilitated the furnishing and equipping of the home. There is a dining room and large lounge on the ground floor, and six bedrooms, one of which is also on the ground floor. Three of the bedrooms have two beds, two have three beds, and one (formerly the billiards room) has seven beds. On the second floor are bed-sitting rooms for the matron and assistant matron-cook; other domestic staff are non-resident. The hall and dining room, and the largest bedroom, are heated by anthracite stoves, the lounge by a coal-coke fire, and the other bedrooms by electric convection heaters. As with "Hill Crest," this house is capable of extension. The need is not urgent, but schemes of this kind take many months to complete, and I shall ask the Committee to give early consideration to planning further accommodation.

There was an increase in the number of persons for whom accommodation was provided during the year, and on 31st December, 1951, 96 persons were in residence. This number is considerably less than the number estimated to require accommodation at the time our schemes were formulated. The reasons for this are multiple, but an important factor is doubtless full employment.

The following table gives details of admissions to and discharges from residential accommodation during the year 1952:—

| Accommodation                            | No. of<br>Residents<br>1/1/52 | Admission from |      | Discharges to |      | Deaths | No. of<br>Residents<br>31/12/52 |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|------|---------------|------|--------|---------------------------------|
|                                          |                               | Hospital       | Home | Hospital      | Home |        |                                 |
| Hill Crest,<br>Smethwick .....           | 17                            | 9              | 13   | 4             | 8    | —      | 27                              |
| Park Hill, Moseley                       | 18                            | 2              | 6    | 3             | 4    | 1      | 18                              |
| The Poplars,<br>Wolverhampton ...        | 36                            | 5              | 26   | 7             | 16   | 4      | 40                              |
| Bromley House,<br>Wolverhampton ...      | 3                             | —              | —    | —             | —    | —      | 3                               |
| St. John's Hospital,<br>Walsall .....    | 1                             | —              | —    | 1             | —    | —      | —                               |
| Sycamore House,<br>Walsall .....         | 1                             | —              | —    | —             | —    | —      | 1                               |
| Summer Hill Homes,<br>Birmingham .....   | 2                             | —              | —    | —             | —    | 1      | 1                               |
| "Icknield,"<br>Birmingham .....          | 1                             | —              | —    | —             | —    | 1      | —                               |
| Quinton Hall,<br>Birmingham .....        | 1                             | —              | —    | —             | —    | —      | 1                               |
| Solihull,<br>Warwickshire .....          | 2                             | —              | —    | —             | —    | —      | 2                               |
| Stratford-on-Avon,<br>Warwickshire ..... | 1                             | —              | —    | —             | —    | —      | 1                               |
| "Tegfan,"<br>Glamorgan C.C. ....         | 1                             | —              | —    | —             | —    | —      | 1                               |
| David Lewis                              |                               |                |      |               |      |        |                                 |
| Epileptic Colony,<br>Manchester .....    | 1                             | —              | —    | —             | —    | —      | 1                               |
|                                          | —                             | —              | —    | —             | —    | —      | —                               |
|                                          | 85                            | 16             | 45   | 15            | 28   | 7      | 96                              |
|                                          | —                             | —              | —    | —             | —    | —      | —                               |

## TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION.

Temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need, e.g., following fire, flooding, or eviction, is available only at "The Poplars," Wolverhampton. In a number of cases temporary accommodation in "The Poplars" was refused, and the applicants (generally sub-tenants turned out of their rooms because of the needs of the tenant's family) eventually succeeded in securing further accommodation in rooms. Most of the cases coming to our notice were, in fact, housing cases, whose needs could only satisfactorily be met by a family house.

## CARE OF AGED PERSONS IN THEIR OWN HOMES.

The Domestic Help service and the Home Nursing service are largely used by old people, for whom, of course, all the appropriate activities of the Health Department are freely available. A register of aged persons has been compiled and it is gratifying to find that the great majority have satisfactory accommodation and are able to look after themselves or are receiving all necessary attention from relations. The survey has, however, revealed quite a number of cases where assistance by the Department was helpful and appreciated. During the year the Health Visitors paid 1,076 visits to aged persons. In addition, 354 visits were paid by other officers, chiefly in connection with applications for accommodation and to help old people in the arrangement of their affairs.

The call for residential accommodation has not been so great as was anticipated when the Act came into operation, but during the past year there has been an increase in the number of applications received. Old people very naturally cling to their own homes as long as possible and every effort is made to enable them to continue housekeeping as long as they are fit to do so.

The Housing Committee of the Council has made very generous provision for aged couples in ninety-eight bungalows on the Municipal Housing Estates, and further accommodation is planned. In addition there are seventeen alms-houses in Coopers Lane managed by the Harborne Parish Lands Trust.

The Sons of Rest have flourishing establishments in West Smethwick Park, Victoria Park, Lewisham Park and Lightwoods Park, within the Borough, and a "Darby and Joan Club" is held weekly at the old Vicarage of Holy Trinity Church.

## REMOVAL OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

It was not found necessary during the year to take action under Section 47 of the Act. The Department is always reluctant to invoke these powers and they are not used if there is even a slender chance of ameliorating the conditions under which an old person is anxious to end his days.

## PROTECTION OF PROPERTY.

Action under Section 48 of the Act to provide temporary protection for property of persons admitted to institutions or where burial was arranged under Section 50, was taken in five cases during the year. There were five cases calling for action last year.

## BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

In four cases during the year the Department took action under Section 50 of the Act for the burial of persons where no suitable arrangements had been made. There were six such cases in 1951 and two in 1950.

## WELFARE OF BLIND PERSONS.

The Council have made arrangements with the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind for promoting the welfare of blind persons for whom they are responsible. The institution maintains the Register of Blind Persons and provides all services, including home teaching, workshop employment, home employment, marketing of produce and general social welfare.

The classification of the Register as at 31st December, 1952, was as follows:—

|                                                     | Males    | Females  | Total    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Children at School—Day ... ..                       | 2        | —        | 2        |
| Children at School—Resident ... ..                  | 1        | —        | 1        |
| Adults in Training—Day ... ..                       | 1        | 1        | 2        |
| Workshop Workers ... ..                             | 14       | 3        | 17       |
| Workers in Open Employment ... ..                   | 2        | 1        | 3        |
| Training for Open Employment ... ..                 | 1        | —        | 1        |
| Other Blind Employees ... ..                        | 1        | —        | 1        |
| Unemployables at Home ... ..                        | 23       | 42       | 65       |
| Unemployables in Regional Board<br>Hospitals ... .. | —        | 3        | 3        |
| Unemployables in Welfare Department<br>Homes ... .. | —        | 2        | 2        |
|                                                     | <hr/> 45 | <hr/> 52 | <hr/> 97 |

## WELFARE OF OTHER HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

The Council has under consideration a Scheme for the provision of appropriate welfare services for classes of handicapped persons other than the blind and partially-sighted, and conversations have taken place with other neighbouring authorities in this connection. Information as to the number and needs of such persons is being sought through various channels. Large numbers of these persons have, of course benefited from the appropriate services provided by the Department under Part III of the National Health Service Act and from the activities of various voluntary bodies serving the district; in particular crippled persons have continued to receive treatment and care from the Smethwick Orthopaedic Clinic, a former voluntary body now taken over by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

Mentally handicapped persons receive care and supervision from Officers of the Health Department, and physically handicapped children are the concern of the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical services of the Council.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

There are two comprehensive clinics, one at the "Firs," Coopers Lane, and the other at Cape Hill in premises formerly belonging to the Birmingham General Dispensary. Both are staffed by doctors, dentists, nurses and other workers, and are open for the various services, as follows:—

### *Infant Welfare Centres.*

|                                |        |                 |           |
|--------------------------------|--------|-----------------|-----------|
| The "Firs," Coopers Lane       | ...    | Mon. and Thurs. | 2—4 p.m.  |
| Cape Hill                      | ... .. | Tuesday         | 2—4 p.m.  |
|                                |        | Wednesday       | 9—12 noon |
| Warley: St. Gregory's Church   |        |                 |           |
| Hall, Wigorn Road              | ...    | Friday          | 2—4 p.m.  |
| Londonderry: Community Hall,   |        |                 |           |
| Hurst Road                     | ... .. | Tuesday         | 2—4 p.m.  |
| Sandwell: St. Stephen's Church |        |                 |           |
| Hall, Cambridge Road           | ...    | Wednesday       | 2—4 p.m.  |
| Oldbury Road: Oldbury Road     |        |                 |           |
| Schools                        | ... .. | Friday          | 2—4 p.m.  |

### *Ante-Natal Clinics.*

|             |           |            |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| The "Firs": | Tuesday   | 2—4 p.m.   |
|             | Wednesday | 9—12 noon. |
|             | Thursday  | 2—4 p.m.   |
|             | Friday    | 2—4 p.m.   |

### *Dental Inspection.*

For Expectant and Nursing Mothers:—

|            |         |            |
|------------|---------|------------|
| Cape Hill: | Tuesday | 11.30 a.m. |
|------------|---------|------------|

All new Ante-Natal patients are inspected by the Dental Surgeon on Tuesday mornings, and appointments are made for treatment.

### *School Clinics.*

#### *Inspection Clinic.*

|             |         |               |
|-------------|---------|---------------|
| The "Firs": | Tuesday | 9.30—12 noon. |
| Cape Hill:  | Friday  | 9.30—12 noon. |

#### *Treatment Clinic.*

|             |           |               |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| The "Firs": | Monday    | 9.30—12 noon. |
|             | Wednesday | 9.30—12 noon. |
|             | Thursday  | 9.30—12 noon. |
|             | Friday    | 9.30—12 noon. |
| Cape Hill:  | Monday    | 9.30—12 noon. |
|             | Tuesday   | 9.30—12 noon. |
|             | Wednesday | 2—4 p.m.      |
|             | Thursday  | 9.30—12 noon. |
|             | Friday    | 2—4 p.m.      |

### *Dental Clinic.*

The " Firs " :      Monday to  
                                 Friday      9.30—12 noon & 2—5 p.m.

Gas Sessions Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Casual patients seen from 9.15 to 10.15 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Cape Hill :      Monday to  
                                 Friday      9—12 noon

Gas Sessions Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Casual patients seen from 9.15 to 10.15 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

### *Eye Clinic.*

The " Firs " :      Monday      2—4 p.m.  
                                 Thursday      2—4 p.m.  
                                 (By appointment).

### *Cleansing Clinic :*

The " Firs " :      Monday to      9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.  
                                 Friday

### *Ultra-Violet Light Clinic.*

The " Firs " :      Thursday      9—12 noon.  
                                 Monday      9—12 noon.

### *Chest Clinic.*

The " Firs " :      Monday      6—8 p.m.  
                                 Tuesday      10—12 noon (Children).  
                                 Wednesday      2—4 p.m.  
                                 Thursday      10—12 noon—(Treatment  
                                 Clinic A.P. refills only).  
                                 Friday      2—4 p.m.

The Monday evening clinic is intended for those whose work prevents them attending at the afternoon sessions.

Children coming for the first time should be brought on Tuesday morning.

# REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

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## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

This is the last report on the sanitary administration of the Borough of Smethwick that I shall have the honour to present, and it is perhaps natural that my foreword should take the form of a valediction. It is hardly surprising that the temptation to make historical references and "then and now" comparisons is irresistible.

I have had a share in the compiling of 41 of these annual reports and have been directly responsible for 28 of them. The list of members of the Council who have served our Borough since its incorporation in 1899 contains the names of some 175 ladies and gentlemen, and I have served with no fewer than 149 of these. Perhaps it may be forgiven me as excusable chronological snobbery if I state that of the Council, as constituted when I was appointed in March, 1912, not one is now serving; and indeed, with two remarkable exceptions, Frank Chapman, O.B.E., and George Ryder, O.B.E., none remains alive.

Prior to my appointment in 1912 the staff of the Health Department was as follows:—

1. A part-time Medical Officer of Health—Dr. W. F. Marsh Jackson—who managed with the aid of a one-horse chaise to carry on a considerable private practice and to organise the public health administration of this borough in a manner which bore comparison with any town in the land. Dr. Jackson was respected and feared by all who knew him—patients, staff, Council and townspeople alike, and left an indelible mark on the public life of our town. He was also Police Surgeon, medical officer to the Post Office, and factory medical officer.

2. A Sanitary Inspector, Mr. John Fyles, and one assistant. Mr. Fyles was instrumental in securing the conversion of thousands of insanitary privies to modern water closets. As this work was not quite completed when I came to Smethwick, I was able to assist in bringing about some of the last conversions, and I can say that Mr. Fyles employed a technique in achieving this vital reform which saved the town many thousands of pounds. Like Dr. Marsh Jackson, Mr. Fyles was a man with a vivid personality, and the two of them might easily have stepped right out of the pages of a Dickens novel. Many of their characteristic aphorisms remain even today as a part of the *obiter dicta* of the department.

3. A health visitor, Miss Daniels, a remarkable and gifted woman with a forceful personality. Her function was to reduce the dangerously high incidence of deaths among infants under one year. She was conscientious to a fault and believed in tackling her problems at the source. She soon made the simple discovery that the surest way of reducing the number of infant deaths was to control the number being born. All that was needed was a little timely and well-informed instruction to potential mothers. She shortly left Smethwick to join the staff of Dr. Marie Stopes' clinic, where her reforming zeal had unhampered scope.

4. A clerk—Mr. George H. Roe, who had already served the department in this capacity for five years and was thus by way of being a veteran. He was perhaps the most remarkable man of this unique team. He was efficient, conscientious, sane and one hundred per cent. reliable. Although as ardent a public health reformer as any, he knew and understood the peculiarities and eccentricities of the others, and his orderly mind did much to keep the departmental ship on an even keel. He did more than anyone else to help me to fit myself into the pattern of the department's life. From the first I recognised in him a man who was not only a prodigious worker, but also an earnest seeker after those cultural attainments which make for the full life. He was a lover of good literature, good music and indeed of everything which makes for high living and high thinking. He was my friend from the start, he has remained my friend throughout and will be my friend to the end of the story.

It is no exaggeration to describe Mr. Roe as the golden thread running through the tapestry which represents the picture of our department for nigh on half a century, the most remarkable half century in the annals of public health.

That was the team when I came to it, and Mr. Roe continues as the sole survivor. Many have joined the team during these 41 years, each making his or her own valuable contribution and then moving on; practically all of them doing well and the majority achieving senior positions in other towns. They are too numerous to mention individually but I want here and now to acknowledge the service they rendered to the department and to the town of Smethwick. I am referring especially to those who were associated with me.

But special reference must be made to one who came to lead the team 26 years ago and who did not pass on. I refer, of course, to our Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hugh Paul. I recall well his arrival in Smethwick as a very highly qualified and very ambitious

young man, who was certain to obtain a position in some larger, if not more important, town than Smethwick. It did not take Dr. Paul very long to acclimatize himself and to fit into the public life of Smethwick, and before long it became apparent that it would have to be something very attractive indeed that would tempt him away from the town of his adoption. From the first he and I were good friends and I have been proud to be associated throughout these years with one who now enjoys the distinction of being a paragon among Medical Officers of Health. He has achieved a nation-wide reputation and in doing so he has inevitably added lustre to the name of Smethwick. Some hold the view that a man who stays too long in one place tends to lag behind the times and become a back number. Not so with Dr. Paul, who has always been in the van, or even one jump ahead, of public health progress.

Our relations have been perfect and it must be cause for wonder and even amusement to him, as it is to me, that the public health administration of so very many towns is marred by dissension between the Medical Officer and Chief Sanitary Inspector. Perhaps the explanation is to be found in Dr. Paul's keen sense of humour, a quality not often found among local government officers outside Smethwick. In taking leave of him as a colleague I wish to thank him for all these years of friendship, fellowship and inspiration.

Another member of the staff, who, though still a comparatively young man, has a long record of valuable service, is the Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Evans entered the department as a junior clerk 21 years ago. From the first he was an earnest and conscientious officer who took the keenest interest in every detail of the department's administration. He has worked his way by sheer merit to the position he now occupies. With the exception of a short period spent in the City of Birmingham widening his experience, and the war years, which he spent in the Middle East, his life has been devoted to the cause of public health in Smethwick. His knowledge of the law, his grasp of detail and his patience and industry have been a great support to me and have relieved me of much of the day to day detail work of the department. No Chief Sanitary Inspector could have had a better Deputy than Mr. Evans.

Finally, before leaving the staff, I must say a word in appreciation of Mrs. Gregory, formerly Miss Parish, the secretary par excellence. Miss Parish came to us six and a half years ago from a large industrial concern where she had gained a very sound experience of office work. She started in the department as the perfect secretary, but before very long she had become much more

—the perfect health department secretary. She is intelligent, indefatigable, conscientious and calm. Nothing ruffles Miss Parish, and even before she became Mrs. Gregory she mothered the juniors and smoothed out their difficulties. She has an orderly mind and a prodigious memory. I believe that if the whole of our records were destroyed by fire it wouldn't be too much of a calamity, provided we kept Miss Parish.

In handing over the reins of office to my successor, Mr. W. L. Kay, I do so confident in the knowledge that he will receive the same loyal and conscientious support from the key members of his staff, i.e., his deputy and his secretary, as I have done. I wish for him as much satisfaction and thrill in his work as I have had, and a continuation of the success that he has achieved in his former appointments.

The health department is now a large and highly organised undertaking, and it seems incredible that 41 years ago the work was carried on by four and a half workers. The question naturally arises, what do we get for the extra expenditure? A comparison with some of Dr. Marsh Jackson's Annual Reports gives the answer. In ten years prior to 1912 the death-rate varied between 14 and 19 per thousand. In the last ten years it has been between 11 and 13 per thousand. This in itself is not of great significance. You cannot go on indefinitely bringing down the death-rate, since everyone must eventually die. What the figures do show is that the inevitable end is being put off for a longer period. In other words the average expectation of life is being raised. This trend is illustrated by the

following staggering comparison. Of the total number of people dying in Smethwick during the year 1912, 22% were over the age of 65. Of the total number dying in 1951, the percentage over 65 was 63 and more than half of these actually lived to be over 75. What is more important still is that the tragic wastage of infant life has been reduced. In 1912 the department was congratulating itself on having brought down the infant death-rate from 179 to 140 in a few short years. The figure for 1951 was 26.9. Enteric or typhoid fever attacked 62 of our people in 1912 and 12 of these died. In 1951 we had no cases at all. Other comparisons are: Scarlet fever (then a serious disease) hundreds of cases annually—in 1951, 93 mild non-fatal cases; Diphtheria, in 1912—96 cases; in 1952—nil, and so we could go on.

It is not claimed that improvements in the environmental hygiene services should take sole credit for these spectacular advances, but they must have had some effect, especially in such diseases as enteric, diarrhoea and enteritis.

It is certainly interesting to read in one of Dr. Marsh Jackson's early reports that he attributed one occurrence of typhoid in a young toddler to the child's habit of playing all day long in the privy. He goes on to say how disturbed he has been to find in going about the town that very young children are prone to using as playgrounds the large open privies then common.

I cannot leave this review of the progress in sanitary conditions without a passing reference to the sanitarian's most conspicuous failure, that is the failure to clean up the air we breathe. This is the major problem awaiting the sanitarian and I doubt not that it will be solved before another half-century has passed.

In taking my leave of Smethwick, I wish to thank everyone who has been associated with me in the work of the department; those who have been mentioned individually and those who have not. I wish also to put on record my appreciation of all the help and friendly co-operation I have received from my colleagues in other departments, from the Town Clerk downwards.

I began with a reference to the citizens who have served Smethwick as public representatives. I will end by saying that our town has never been better served than it is today. There are few members of the Smethwick Council who would not concede that the Health Committee is the most important and certainly the most interesting Committee on which to serve. After comparing notes with my many colleagues throughout the country I have reached the conclusion that the Smethwick Health Committee will bear comparison with any in the land. I wish the Chairman and members of that Committee continued success in their endeavours on behalf of the townspeople, and I tender to them my heartfelt thanks for their confidence in and friendship towards me. Had I been less well treated, it would not have been quite so hard to say farewell.

JOHN H. WRIGHT.

6th April, 1953.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

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### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

The total number of visits paid to all premises for all purposes was 18,280 and these are summarised in Table 1. This figure compares unfavourably with last year's total of 26,104. The explanation for the discrepancy is that in 1951 we had, except for one district inspector who left four months before the end of the year, eight inspectors throughout the year. Owing to the difficulty of replacing staff, we have been reduced during 1952 to an average of five and one third inspectors over the whole year. A comparison of averages shows that in 1951 the average visits per inspector-year was 3,405 and the average per inspector-year for 1952—3,427. It is remarkable, having regard to the wide divergence in the duties performed and the different conditions prevailing from year to year, to find how consistent the figures turn out to be.

TABLE I.

|                                    |     |     |     |     |                    |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Inspections on Complaint           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,885              |
| Re-visits re Notices Served        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,734              |
| Inspections re Ashes Accommodation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,884              |
| Re-visits re Ashes Accommodation   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 254                |
| Housing Act Inspections            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5                  |
| Housing Act Re-visits              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55                 |
| Housing Work in Progress           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4                  |
| Overcrowding                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 324                |
| Infectious Diseases                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 191                |
| Markets Inspected                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 147                |
| Dairies and Milkshops              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17                 |
| Bakehouses Inspected               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37                 |
| Food Inspections                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 385                |
| Meat and Other Food Premises       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 531                |
| Food Sampling                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 522                |
| Water Sampling                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23                 |
| Hawkers                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1                  |
| Ice Cream Vendors                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 207                |
| Hairdressers Premises              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36                 |
| Factories                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 110                |
| Outworkers                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 64                 |
| Schools Inspected                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34                 |
| Offensive Trades                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1                  |
| Pet Shops                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5                  |
| Waste Water Closets                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 53                 |
| Drains Tested                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 79                 |
| Prevention of Damage by Pests Act  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 658                |
| Pigsties and Stables               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 175                |
| Insect Pests and Vermin            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 179                |
| Private Slaughtering               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 38                 |
| Smoke Observations                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22                 |
| Visits re Smoke Abatement          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 169                |
| Miscellaneous                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,451              |
|                                    |     |     |     |     | <hr/> 18,280 <hr/> |

## SUMMARY OF DEFECTS

The following table gives a summary of the various defects encountered in the course of visits paid to all types of premises, together with the number of defects remedied under each heading:—

TABLE II.

|                                                        | Found | Remedied |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Dirty Premises ... ..                                  | 160   | 150      |
| Defective Roofs, Spouting, etc ...                     | 768   | 672      |
| Blocked Drains ... ..                                  | 429   | 397      |
| Defective or Insufficient Paving ...                   | 19    | 22       |
| Defective Sinks and Wastepipes ...                     | 46    | 54       |
| Accumulation of Offensive Matter ...                   | 16    | 19       |
| Defective Plaster of Walls and Ceilings                | 461   | 456      |
| Defective Ashbins or Ashplaces ...                     | 1,357 | 1,085    |
| Defective W.C.'s ... ..                                | 142   | 129      |
| Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation ...              | 279   | 250      |
| Overcrowding ... ..                                    | 29    | 44       |
| Smoke Nuisances ... ..                                 | 2     | 2        |
| Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance ...                | 8     | 4        |
| Defective Water Fittings ... ..                        | 24    | 33       |
| Dampness ... ..                                        | 180   | 160      |
| Insufficient Water Supply ... ..                       | 11    | 15       |
| Inadequate Food Storage Accommoda-<br>tion ... ..      | —     | 3        |
| Dangerous Buildings ... ..                             | 16    | 14       |
| Defective or Insufficient Drainage ...                 | 133   | 167      |
| Inadequate Heating ... ..                              | —     | 2        |
| Defective Washboilers ... ..                           | 36    | 42       |
| Defective External Brickwork and<br>Chimneys ... ..    | 284   | 265      |
| Defective Floors ... ..                                | 153   | 148      |
| Defective Firegrates ... ..                            | 71    | 66       |
| Defective Stairs and Handrails ...                     | 41    | 53       |
| Defective Woodwork of Doors, Win-<br>dows, etc. ... .. | 226   | 216      |
| Defective Rainwater Cisterns ... ..                    | 5     | 2        |
| Rats—Sewer Infestation ... ..                          | 387   | 387      |
| Rats—Surface Infestation ... ..                        | 250   | 250      |
| Miscellaneous ... ..                                   | 46    | 61       |
|                                                        | 5,579 | 5,168    |

## WATER SUPPLY.

The Town's water is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and has been satisfactorily maintained both as regards quantity and quality.

The Company regularly make bacteriological and chemical analyses of the water both prior to treatment and going into supply.

No cases of contamination were reported during the year.

The number of houses in the town sharing a common water supply remains at approximately 1.1 per cent. and the position with regard to water is set out below:—

|                           | Houses | Population | Percentage |
|---------------------------|--------|------------|------------|
| Internal water supply ... | 20,953 | 76,432     | 96.04      |
| Separate outdoor supply   | 625    | 2,125      | 2.86       |
| Communal water supply     | 243    | 840        | 1.10       |

During the year three samples of mains water were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination, all of which were reported as satisfactory. Below are the details of the analysis of one of these samples:—

### CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

|                                                             |     |     |                             | Parts per<br>100,000 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Free and Saline Ammonia                                     | ... | ... | ...                         | 0.0                  |
| Albuminoid Ammonia                                          | ... | ... | ...                         | 0.0032               |
| Chlorine with Chlorides                                     | ... | ... | ...                         | 2.8                  |
| Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites                           | ... | ... | ...                         | 0.16                 |
| Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at<br>80°F. in four hours | ... | ... | ...                         | 0.039                |
| Total solids dried at 100°C.                                | ... | ... | ...                         | 35                   |
| Nitrite                                                     | ... | ... | ...                         | Absent               |
| Ph.                                                         | ... | ... | ...                         | 7.38                 |
| Appearance                                                  | ... | ... | Bright, few small particles |                      |

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

|                                                                                 |     |     |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| No. of Colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar<br>in 2 days at 37°C per c.c.    | ... | ... | 7      |
| No. of Colonies capable of growth on Reibel-<br>Agar in 2 days at 37°C per c.c. | ... | ... | 0      |
| No. of Colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar<br>in 4 days at 20°C per c.c.    | ... | ... | 13     |
| Presumptive B. Coli in 100 c.c.                                                 | ... | ... | Absent |

## WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE CORPORATION IN THE 'OWNERS' DEFAULT:

During the year under review the Corporation has executed work at the cost of the owner, and in default of his compliance with Notices as follows:—

|     |                                                                                                                                            |        |           |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| (1) | Cleansing or repair of blocked or defective drains and repairs to defective W.C.'s under Section 49 of the Smethwick Corporation Act, 1929 | ... .. | 424 cases |
| (2) | Abatement of nuisances in default of compliance with Orders of the court, Section 95, Public Health Act, 1936                              | ... .. | 6 cases   |
| (3) | Repair of defective roofs under Section 49 of the Smethwick Corporation Act, 1948...                                                       | ... .. | 21 cases  |
| (4) | Conversion of Waste Water Closets to Water Closets                                                                                         | ... .. | 5 cases   |

During the year 956 bins were provided by the Corporation in accordance with the scheme instituted under Section 75 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### HOUSING ACT, 1936:

#### UNFIT HOUSES:

During the year two houses were represented as unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost. Notices of time and place were served on the owners and demolition orders made.

#### OVERCROWDING:

At the close of the year 74 cases of overcrowding remained on the register. The number of cases of overcrowding abated during the period under review was 36, 2 of which were abated by the Corporation providing alternative accommodation for the overcrowded family.

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949:

The number of premises cleared of rats and mice during the year was 250.

Two maintenance treatments of the town's sewers were undertaken, a total of 352 manholes being baited. 66 complete takes and 80 partial takes were recorded. This compares with 25 complete takes and 344 partial takes out of a total 928 manholes baited during 1951 and indicates that the maintenance treatments have considerably reduced the rat population in the sewers.

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS:

During the year under review legal proceedings were instituted in respect of 23 premises, consequent upon the failure of the owners to comply with notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936. The results of the cases were as follows:—

- (i) Cases withdrawn, the work having been completed prior to the hearing of the case ... 9
- (ii) Cases in which abatement orders were made ... 14

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD: MILK SUPPLY.

The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination was 167. The results of the examinations are summarised in the following table:—

TABLE III.

| Type of Milk      | No. of Samples | Tests Applied  | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Pasteurised ...   | 75             | Phosphatase    | 74           | 1              |
|                   | 75             | Methylene Blue | 71           | 4              |
| Tuberculin Tested | 55             | Phosphatase    | 53           | 2              |
| (Pasteurised)     | 55             | Methylene Blue | 52           | 3              |
| Sterilised ...    | 37             | Methylene Blue | 37           | —              |
|                   | 37             | Turbidity Test | 37           | —              |

## SUMMARY.

Milk examined for keeping quality (Methylene Blue)—4.2 per cent. unsatisfactory. Milk examined for efficiency of Heat Treatment (Phosphatase and Turbidity Tests)—1.8 per cent. unsatisfactory.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The articles of food which it has been found necessary to condemn for diseased or unsound conditions are summarised in the table below. In all cases the food was surrendered and destroyed or was so disposed of as to prevent its use for human food.

TABLE IV.

|                         | Tons | Cwts. | Qrs. | Lb. | Ozs. |
|-------------------------|------|-------|------|-----|------|
| Meat ... ..             | 3    | —     | —    | 20  | 14   |
| Fish ... ..             |      | 3     | 3    | 27  | 12   |
| Fruit ... ..            | 2    | 10    | 3    | 12  | 13   |
| Vegetables ... ..       | 1    | 16    | —    | 18  | —    |
| Fats ... ..             |      | 2     | 2    | 17  | 3    |
| Miscellaneous Foods ... |      | 9     | 3    | 9   | 7    |
|                         | 8    | 3     | 2    | 22  | 1    |

All butchers' meat sold for human consumption in the town is distributed from the City Meat Market and Abattoir in Birmingham. The only slaughtering carried on in the borough is of cottagers' pigs, for home consumption, details of which are given in the following table:—

TABLE V.

|                                                                        |      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Number of pigs killed ... ..                                           | 44   |
| Number of pigs inspected ... ..                                        | 44   |
| Number found diseased:—                                                |      |
| (a) All diseases except Tuberculosis:—                                 |      |
| (i) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..          | 7    |
| (ii) Percentage of number affected with disease other than T.B. ... .. | 15.9 |
| (b) Tuberculosis only:—                                                |      |
| (i) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..          | —    |
| (ii) Percentage of number affected with Tuberculosis ... ..            | —    |

#### ICE CREAM:

At the close of the year 243 premises were registered for the manufacture and/or sale of Ice Cream. This compared with 213 registrations in 1951. All these premises have been regularly visited and the provisions of both the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 13, are being observed.

The registered premises are as follows:—

|                                                  |       |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|
| For manufacture and sale (Hot Mix Process) ...   | 6     |
| For manufacture and sale (Complete Cold Mix) ... | 20    |
| For sale only ... ..                             | 217   |
|                                                  | <hr/> |
|                                                  | 243   |
|                                                  | <hr/> |

During the year 89 samples of Ice Cream were submitted to bacteriological tests and graded as follows:—

|           |     |     |     |    |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Grade I   | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| Grade II  | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Grade III | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Grade IV  | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
|           |     |     |     | —  |
|           |     |     |     | 89 |
|           |     |     |     | —  |

## CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The Borough Analysts, Messrs. Bostock, Hill and Rigby, of Birmingham, carry out chemical analysis of food, drugs, water, air, etc., and bacteriological examination of Ice Cream.

Bacteriological examination of food, including examination of milk for methylene blue reduction test, bacterial count, phosphatase test, and the presence of B. Coli, as well as the biological examination of milk for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, were undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory and the City Analyst's Laboratory, Great Charles Street, Birmingham.

TABLE VI.  
SUMMARY OF ARTICLES OF FOOD AND DRUGS  
SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST AND THE  
RESULTS OF THE ANALYSES.

| Articles Analysed                        | Total<br>Samples | Genuine | Not<br>Genuine |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|---------|----------------|
| Milk                                     | 72               | 72      | —              |
| Herbs, Spices, Flavourings, etc.         | 15               | 15      | —              |
| Drugs and Laxatives                      | 20               | 19      | 1              |
| Confectionery                            | 11               | 11      | —              |
| Custard Powder                           | 1                | 1       | —              |
| Sauces, Relishes, Pickles, etc.          | 10               | 10      | —              |
| Sausages, Savouries, etc.                | 49               | 37      | 12             |
| Meat and Fish Pastes                     | 6                | 6       | —              |
| Cake Mixtures, Leavening Agents,<br>etc. | 7                | 7       | —              |
| Cereals                                  | 2                | 2       | —              |
| Condiments                               | 4                | 4       | —              |
| Coffee and Chicory                       | 2                | 2       | —              |
| Ice Cream                                | 41               | 37      | 4              |
|                                          | 240              | 223     | 17             |

# 1. INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS

| PREMISES                                                                                                         | Number<br>on<br>Register | NUMBER OF   |                    |                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                                                                  |                          | Inspections | Written<br>notices | Occupiers<br>prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..                  | 16                       | 22          | —                  | —                       |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..                  | 165                      | 88          | 6                  | —                       |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... | —                        | —           | —                  | —                       |
| TOTAL ... ..                                                                                                     | 181                      | 110         | 6                  | —                       |

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

| PARTICULARS                                                                           | Number of cases<br>in which defects were found |          |                      |                      | Number of cases<br>in which<br>prosecutions<br>were instituted |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                       | Found                                          | Remedied | Referred             |                      |                                                                |
|                                                                                       |                                                |          | To H.M.<br>Inspector | By H.M.<br>Inspector |                                                                |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..                                                      | —                                              | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                                              |
| Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..                                                             | —                                              | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                                              |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..                                                 | —                                              | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                                              |
| Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ... ..                                                   | —                                              | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                                              |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..                                           | —                                              | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                                              |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):                                                          |                                                |          |                      |                      |                                                                |
| (a) insufficient ... ..                                                               | —                                              | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                                              |
| (b) unsuitable or defective ... ..                                                    | 6                                              | 7        | —                    | 7                    | —                                                              |
| (c) not separate for sexes... ..                                                      | —                                              | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                                              |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to<br>Outwork) ... .. | —                                              | —        | —                    | —                    | —                                                              |
| TOTAL ... ..                                                                          | 6                                              | 7        | —                    | 7                    | —                                                              |

## APPENDIX.

Causes of Death at different Periods of Life in the  
County Borough of Smethwick, 1952.

| CAUSES OF DEATH |                                         |    |    | Sex | All<br>Ages | 0— | 1— | 5— | 15— | 25— | 45— | 65— | 75— |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|----|----|-----|-------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ALL CAUSES      |                                         |    |    | M   | 455         | 23 | 4  | 2  | 8   | 27  | 128 | 119 | 144 |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 382         | 18 | 3  | —  | 4   | 15  | 68  | 105 | 169 |
| 1.              | Tuberculosis, respiratory               | .. | .. | M   | 15          | —  | —  | —  | —   | 3   | 9   | 3   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 6           | —  | —  | —  | 1   | 3   | —   | 2   | —   |
| 2.              | Tuberculosis, other                     | .. | .. | M   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 1           | —  | —  | —  | 1   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
| 3.              | Syphilitic disease..                    | .. | .. | M   | 2           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | 1   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 1           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | 1   | —   |
| 4.              | Diphtheria                              | .. | .. | M   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
| 5.              | Whooping cough..                        | .. | .. | M   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
| 6.              | Meningococcal infections                | .. | .. | M   | 1           | —  | 1  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 1           | —  | 1  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
| 7.              | Acute poliomyelitis                     | .. | .. | M   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
| 8.              | Measles                                 | .. | .. | M   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 1           | 1  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
| 9.              | Other infective and parasitic diseases  | .. | .. | M   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 2           | 1  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | 1   | —   |
| 10.             | Malignant neoplasm, stomach             | .. | .. | M   | 10          | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 5   | 2   | 3   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 15          | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 5   | 5   | 5   |
| 11.             | Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus..    | .. | .. | M   | 23          | —  | —  | —  | —   | 3   | 9   | 7   | 4   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 5           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 3   | 1   | 1   |
| 12.             | Malignant neoplasm, breast              | .. | .. | M   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 11          | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 6   | 4   | 1   |
| 13.             | Malignant neoplasm, uterus              | .. | .. | M   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 3           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | —   | 2   |
| 14.             | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | .. | .. | M   | 42          | —  | —  | —  | 1   | 1   | 15  | 7   | 18  |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 22          | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 7   | 10  | 5   |
| 15.             | Leukæmia, aleukæmia                     | .. | .. | M   | 4           | —  | —  | —  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 1           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | —   | —   |
| 16.             | Diabetes                                | .. | .. | M   | 2           | —  | —  | —  | —   | 1   | —   | 1   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 7           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | 2   | 4   |
| 17.             | Vascular lesions of nervous system      | .. | .. | M   | 53          | —  | —  | —  | —   | 3   | 7   | 14  | 29  |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 62          | —  | —  | —  | —   | 4   | 10  | 19  | 29  |
| 18.             | Coronary disease, angina                | .. | .. | M   | 48          | —  | —  | —  | —   | 2   | 17  | 15  | 14  |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 33          | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 7   | 14  | 12  |
| 19.             | Hypertension with heart disease         | .. | .. | M   | 9           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | 2   | 6   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 10          | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | 5   | 5   |
| 20.             | Other heart disease                     | .. | .. | M   | 63          | —  | —  | —  | 1   | —   | 10  | 23  | 29  |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 74          | —  | —  | —  | 1   | 1   | 6   | 14  | 52  |
| 21.             | Other circulatory disease               | .. | .. | M   | 17          | —  | —  | —  | 1   | 1   | 3   | 8   | 4   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 16          | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 3   | 4   | 9   |
| 22.             | Influenza                               | .. | .. | M   | 2           | —  | —  | —  | —   | 1   | 1   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
| 23.             | Pneumonia                               | .. | .. | M   | 12          | 1  | 1  | —  | —   | —   | 3   | 2   | 5   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 18          | 6  | 1  | —  | —   | 1   | 1   | 4   | 5   |
| 24.             | Bronchitis                              | .. | .. | M   | 60          | 1  | —  | —  | —   | 1   | 24  | 16  | 18  |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 24          | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 2   | 9   | 12  |
| 25.             | Other diseases of respiratory system..  | .. | .. | M   | 4           | —  | —  | —  | —   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 1           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | 1   |
| 26.             | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum           | .. | .. | M   | 10          | —  | —  | —  | —   | 1   | 3   | 3   | 3   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 3           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | —   | 2   |
| 27.             | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa       | .. | .. | M   | 3           | 2  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | 1   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 4           | —  | —  | —  | —   | 1   | —   | 1   | 2   |
| 28.             | Nephritis and nephrosis                 | .. | .. | M   | 3           | —  | —  | —  | —   | 1   | 2   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 5           | —  | —  | —  | —   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 2   |
| 29.             | Hyperplasia of prostate                 | .. | .. | M   | 1           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | 1   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
| 30.             | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion         | .. | .. | M   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
| 31.             | Congenital malformations                | .. | .. | M   | 10          | 9  | —  | 1  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 6           | 5  | —  | —  | 1   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
| 32.             | Other defined and ill-defined diseases  | .. | .. | M   | 31          | 9  | —  | —  | 1   | 2   | 4   | 8   | 7   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 36          | 5  | 1  | —  | —   | 1   | 8   | 6   | 15  |
| 33.             | Motor vehicle accidents                 | .. | .. | M   | 7           | —  | 2  | 1  | 1   | —   | —   | 1   | 1   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 3           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | 2   | —   |
| 34.             | All other accidents                     | .. | .. | M   | 11          | 2  | —  | —  | 1   | 4   | 4   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 5           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | —   | 4   |
| 35.             | Suicide                                 | .. | .. | M   | 12          | —  | —  | —  | 1   | —   | 7   | 3   | 1   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | 6           | —  | —  | —  | —   | 2   | 3   | —   | 1   |
| 36.             | Homicide and operations of war          | .. | .. | M   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |
|                 |                                         |    |    | F   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |





